

THE TIMES Tomorrow

On a wing... For the Glorious Twelfth, we consider the esoteric sport of grouse-hunting with falcons and hear from some of Miles Kingston's quirky correspondents.

...and a prayer Heaven's Gate, the legendary \$40m film flop, is coming to London. Spectrum finds director Michael Cimino unrepentant.

Tea... John Woodcock reports on the first day's play in the third Test Match.

...and sympathy How India has reacted to the violence against the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Soldiers.

Conservative MP George Walden asks why Britain continues to maintain a military presence in Belize.

...of fortune Friday Page investigates the vast amount of money made by middlemen in deals that push up the price of drugs bought by the NHS.

Lebanese ministers kidnapped

Druze gunmen last night kidnapped three Lebanese government ministers, including the Minister of Finance, as they returned from a meeting in the Chouf mountains south-east of Beirut. They were taken to the Druze capital of Moughiara, which has supported Syria's opposition to the Gemayel Government.

Thatcher rest

Mrs Thatcher leaves tomorrow for a private holiday in Switzerland. Her ophthalmic surgeon said he was pleased with her progress.

Record breaker

Tom McClean, the lone British sailor, has broken the British boat record for crossing the Atlantic, landing in Porto de Leixoes, Portugal in his 7th 9th boat Giltspur.

Hunted man dies

The body of a man wanted in connection with the murder of Mr Peter Arne, the actor, has been found in the Thames. Police say the murder inquiry goes on.

Opening shot

The Peak National Park is seeking a county court injunction to stop anti-field sport groups disrupting grouse shooting when the season opens tomorrow, the Glorious Twelfth.

\$65m bid fight

Norcross, the industrial conglomerate, has launched a \$65m bid for UBM, Britain's biggest quoted builders merchants. UBM says it will fight it Page 13

First package holidays - next it will be cheap day returns!

First package holidays - next it will be cheap day returns!

Cauten banned

Steve Cauten, the American jockey was banned for eight days Page 19

Leader page 9

Letters: On green belts, from Mr D Jennings-Smith, and the Rev Lord Sandford; job mobility, from Mr D D Green, and others

Leading articles: British Rail, Nigeria; monuments

Features: pages 6 and 8

Labour's 'nightmare ticket': Was Mrs Thatcher inevitable? Why President Assad is in no hurry to leave Lebanon. Spectrum: Profile of Sir Angus Wilson.

Obituary, page 10

Mr Howard Dietz, Major General R A Stephen

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Meacher derides 'dream ticket' as recipe for conflict

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Meacher, the left-wing contender for Labour's deputy leadership, has denounced the "dream ticket" concept of a Neil Kinnock-Roy Hattersley team as a recipe for continued destructive internal wrangling.

Mr Meacher, whose prospects in the race for the deputy post look far brighter than when the contest started, did not name Mr Kinnock or Mr Hattersley, but said that some people had talked about a so-called balanced ticket for the leadership: "putting together two persons who are fundamentally opposed in their views". That was not a dream ticket but a conflict ticket.

He added: "After all, isn't that what we're supposed to have had in the last three years, and if that was less than a resounding success, why should a younger version of the same thing be expected to do any better?"

Mr Meacher's comments came in the statements of views on various issues which he and the other candidates submitted to the Post Office Engineering Union. There have been published in the union's journal the News.

The union's executive council decided on Tuesday that its members vote for a Kinnock-Meacher combination in the branch ballot it is holding on the leadership.

Mr Meacher, the MP for Oldham West, asked for the union's support on the grounds that if the Labour Party was to regain credibility and force it was vital that it had a leadership that spoke with one voice, and was in tune with the Labour conference and the aspirations of the labour movement.

"The way to future peace within the party, which is so desperately needed, is through a joint leadership, a unity ticket where both the leader and deputy leader are committed to implementing the agreed policies of the party", he said.

Mr Meacher then made clear that he was opposed to re-introduction of incomes policy, in favour of unilateralism and withdrawal from the EEC, and opposed to the reversal of recent constitutional changes in the Party like the electoral college.

Most of the candidates' statements were broadly similar to their personal manifestos and the policy speeches they have already made.

Mr Hattersley took head-on the issue of incomes policy, which he is expected to develop in a major speech next week, and said that an essential ingredient of Labour's prescription for recovery must be "an agreement with the trade unions about the overall level of money wages which will allow growth without inflation".

He repeated his calls for changes in the party's policies on defence and the EEC, and urged "massive changes" at the party headquarters with the understanding that if Labour was to win the marginal seats needed for victory it would have to recruit 200 agents to organize the local parties.

He said: "I am therefore, unapologetically the candidate of change and improvement. That does not make me the most comfortable or least controversial of the contestants. But it makes me the candidate of the hard truth".

Mr Kinnock, the comfortable front-runner in the leadership race, gives notice today that, if elected, he will reorganize Labour's front bench to incorporate a new post of social services spokesman, in addition to the existing posts of health and social security spokesmen.

Writing in *Community Care*, he says the party needs to do much more to play a leading role in the development of the social services to ensure that they are given national prominence.

Steel warned, Back page

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Seamen to share salvage pay-out

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The 37 crew members of the minesweeper Crichton are to share among themselves a handsome payout for helping to save a blazing West German freighter.

According to Queen's Regulations, the captain, Lieutenant Simon Thomas will get three times as much of the salvage money as his chief petty officer and six times the share of an able seaman - all negotiated on their behalf by the Ministry of Defence.

Exactly how much each man will get is not yet known, however, the ship they saved, the West German freighter the *Dellstedt*, is probably worth nearly £1m in insurance.

Their good fortune follows an outbreak of fire in the 499-ton *Dellstedt's* engine room, 22 miles south-west of Newhaven. Lieutenant Thomas put a firefighting crew on board and, after an eight-hour struggle, and with the help of the Sealink tug, *Meachling*, the blaze was put out and the freighter towed into Newhaven on Tuesday night. Lieutenant Thomas secured a Lloyd's open form of salvage agreement.

The agreement is basically a document carried in the captain's locker of most international vessels. When a ship goes to the assistance of another, these documents are signed and exchanged, the respective captains thereby being secure in the knowledge that should there be any argument over salvage, the matter will be referred to Lloyd's arbitrators.

The Ministry of Defence said that it agreed with the *Dellstedt's* insurers.

add considerably to the value of the goods which have gone missing.

The investigation started after more than 100 Taiwanese manufacturers discovered that cheques they had been given to pay for products being shipped to Britain, and possibly elsewhere in Europe and the United States, were worthless.

"They had been dealing with the man who had ordered the goods for between three to five years", Mr Raveen Arora, a chartered accountant and industrial consultant, who took out the High Court injunction against the factory owners' behalf, said.

"He had their trust and, according to an accepted payments practice in Taiwan, they had taken post-dated cheques against shipments of the goods."

High Court action to thwart \$25m Taiwan shipping fraud

By John Lawless

A London High Court judge yesterday issued an injunction to stop goods worth \$25m (£16m) arriving in Britain from Taiwan from being claimed by the man who is alleged to have acquired them through fraud.

Officials of the London-based International Maritime Bureau have contacted all shipping lines with vessels arriving at British ports to warn them that certain container loads of goods may have been stolen.

The fraud appears to have involved enough goods to fill a supermarket, Mr Eric Allen, the bureau's director and former Chief Constable of the Port of London Police Authority, said. "I have sent a full report to the Director of Public Prosecutions."

He said that the bureau was receiving shipping documents daily from Taiwan which could

Package holidays by Concorde will be on sale for the first time this winter to Florida, the Caribbean and Egypt. But if the holiday-maker reaches his Barbados beach in half the time, he will be paying more than twice the price for the privilege.

Two holiday firms have made deals with British Airways: Kuoni to Florida, Barbados, and Antigua; and Thomson to Cairo both ways by Concorde at £876, one-way Concorde and one-way Egyptian £599, and both ways Egyptian £317. Kuoni offers a week in Barbados one way Concorde at £1,064, both ways by subsonic jet £486.

Because the Caribbean is beyond Concorde's 3,600-mile range, the aircraft will refuel at New York or Washington. It will be Concorde's first visit to the Caribbean apart from a



Delighted smile from one of the ship's officers, Lieutenant David Smyth.

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Dollar up on fears of higher US rates

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The dollar surged ahead again on foreign exchange markets yesterday, after Tuesday's brief respite. Funds flowed into the dollar to take advantage of high interest rates, amid speculation that rates across the Atlantic could soon move higher still.

The dollar reached record-breaking levels against the franc and several other European currencies and closed near a ten-year high against the Deutschmark - up 3½ pennings at DM2.7245.

However the pound remained firm. Although it slipped 1.1 cents against the dollar to \$1.4820, sterling strengthened against other currencies helped by confidence in the level of oil prices. Its trade-weighted value was up 0.2 to 84.

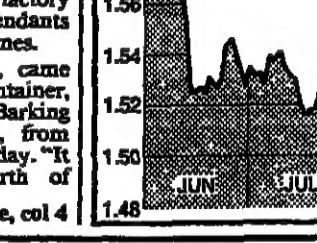
There is a growing conviction that firmer US interest rates may soon force American banks to push up their prime lending rates by a further ½ per cent on top of the 11 per cent rise to 11 per cent announced on Monday. Tomorrow's United States money supply figures are expected to be a key influence on the trend.

Although higher US interest rates could add to the dollar's strength, markets remain relaxed about prospects for sterling.

Sterling has largely escaped the heavy selling pressure depressing European currencies and the Bank of England has stood back from intervention. Dealers do not believe a further rise in US interest rates would immediately affect the level of British rates unless sterling began to fall.

Should sterling weaken sharply it would pose problems for the Government. The Treasury would probably be happy to see sterling lower against Continental currencies but not against the dollar.

The latest bout of dollar buying was sparked off by remarks from Herr Otto Pöhl, president of the West German Federal Bank, and another senior Bonn official. These convinced markets that the German central bank will not raise interest rates to protect the mark until the central bank council meets today, and that the German authorities are unlikely for the time being to attempt further heavy intervention to support the mark.



DOLLAR/STERLING

Continued on back page, col 4

VICTORIA WINE

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Australia II keel measures up to America's Cup rules

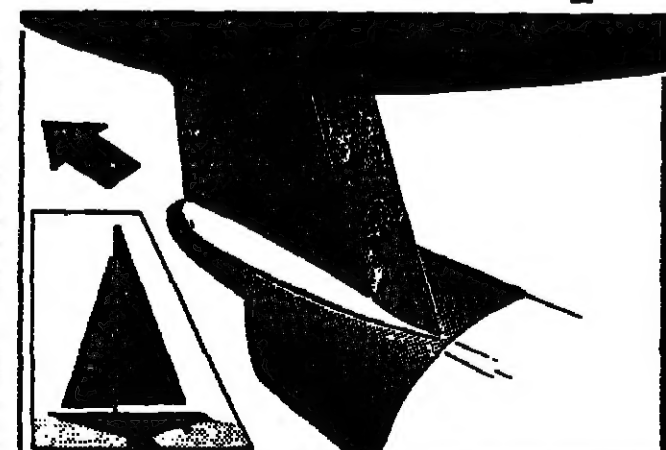
By Barry Picthall

American moves to have the radical keel of the America's Cup challenge contender Australia II outlawed failed yesterday.

The International Measurement Committee, chaired by Tony Watts, from Britain, reaffirmed on the eve of the semi-final series off Rhode Island, that the Australian yacht does measure as a 12-metre.

The radical Ben Lexcen design, which is challenging through the Royal Turf Yacht Club, has dominated the preliminary challenge trials against her six rivals, including Britain's *Victory* '83, scoring 36 wins in 42 races, and is seen by the Americans as the first real challenge for the trophy first won from Britain by the schooner *America* in a race round the Isle of Wight in 1853.

The Australian yacht, skip-



Cleared: The controversial keel of Australia II, challenged by the Americans

pered by John Bertrand, has shown outstanding acceleration and manoeuvrability and consistently outpaced her rivals to windward. She carries at the base of its narrow-sectioned keel a lead ball with protruding fins.

The Americans have argued that, while the yacht undoubtedly measures as a 12-metre when upright, the downward

sloping fins have the effect of increasing her draught when the yacht is heeled.

In a letter sent last night to Sir William Fess, Commodore of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Mr Watts wrote: "The Measurement Committee unanimously reaffirms that the keel of Australia II is legal."

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of Australia II, began developing this idea three years ago, after seeing the results of a research programme on the design of aircraft tail wings by the Fokker company while he was tank-testing models.

The Australians found that, while a narrow-sectioned keel reduced drag, the lead ball and ballasted fins improved the righting moment and provided an end-plate effect to the foil, which increased lift.

Though arguing over the legitimacy of Mr Lexcen's keel design, the Americans themselves experimented almost 10

years ago on *Courageous*, the successful America's Cup defender in both 1974 and 1977.

Ted Hood, her skipper in the 1974 series, when the Stephen's design beat Southern Cross, Alan Bond's first Australian challenge, with four straight wins, said yesterday: "We tried a less extreme winged keel, but it seemed that the boat lost more of wind than we gained on the wind."

Competing yachts, though termed as 12 metres, measure not to any specific length but to a complex formula derived from more than 50 measurements, including waterline and overall length, draught, beam, displacement and sail area, which must compute to 12 metres.

The equation used to measure all yachts

$L \cdot 2D \cdot F \cdot V \cdot S$

2.37

(L = length, D = depth, S = sail area, F = freeboard).

Joseph aims to introduce economic 'facts of life' into the classroom

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Economics or the economic "facts of life" should be taught to school children, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, believes. Private talks are taking place with that aim in mind.

He has written to all his senior civil servants, including the senior economic adviser at the Department of Education and Science, asking them for their comments.

Responses have been flowing back and discussions are expected to take place in the autumn about how and whether children should be taught about basic economic facts and specifically, how an economy works in a free and pluralistic society.

The issue has been one of Sir Keith's prime concerns since he first arrived in the department in 1981. But he knows that

there is no question of him being able to control the curriculum, even if he wanted to. Nor, it is understood, does he wish to indoctrinate children with his own economic dogma.

Some of the economists at the Department of Education and Science are concerned because he has strong views about the importance of private industry and business in wealth creation. Other civil servants say Sir Keith is sophisticated enough to appreciate that there are different interpretations of the ways economics work.

The debate is still at an early stage but not if he decides to act, the most he can probably do initially is to issue a consultative document.

Teachers may well not respond kindly to that. Many will almost certainly see it as another imposition on an

already overcrowded curriculum and will point out that they are already teaching "the economic facts of life" through one subject or another.

However, compared with West Germany, English education contains relatively little awareness of the political and economic context in which we live. The number of examination passes in economics has remained remarkably constant over the past three years.

Last summer there were 26,214 passes at A level, 23,933 at O level and 19,396 graded passes at CSE in all English examination boards. Sir Keith has consulted the permanent secretary and the deputy secretaries, as well as Mr Bernard Cullen, the senior economic adviser, and Mr Michael Le Guillon, the HMI for economics.

Education adviser for No 10

The Prime Minister is to have an adviser on education and training attached to her policy unit at 10 Downing Street. He is Mr Oliver Letwin, aged 27 and a former special adviser to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education (Our Education Correspondent writes).

Mr Letwin, who was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, has been recruited by Mr Ferdinand

Mount, the *Spectator's* former columnist, who runs the unit. The announcement will be made tomorrow.

The son of a well-known figure in education, Mr Letwin has had a meteoric career. He was recruited by Sir Keith last year out of an academic life at Cambridge.

His job at Downing Street will be to act as a channel of communication but many in the education world are likely to

see his move across the river as fresh evidence that the Government means business where education is concerned. Some will see him as the Prime Minister's spy at the department where he is expected to continue to spend time and to do some work for Sir Keith.

Mr Letwin rattled the feathers of teachers and others with his outspoken comments of horror after visits to state schools.

Glasgow bows to cuts order

Glasgow yesterday agreed to comply with the Government's special parliamentary order, and agreed reluctantly to cut £10m off local spending.

Now for the first time the Labour-controlled council may be forced to depart from its policy of no compulsory redundancies among its 14,000 work force. "We do not want to sack people," Councillor Jeann McFadden, leader of the Labour group, said, "but it seems to be government policy to force councils like us to cut staffs and services through simply making it impossible for us to pay for them."

Benefits burden on councils

Four months after local authorities took over a new housing benefit scheme for assisting tenants and mortgage holders on low incomes, district and borough councils are complaining about the administrative burden.

The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the change had created great distress for people because of the Government's determination that the new scheme should not cost more.

Crime records to be computerized

All criminal records in Scotland, at present filed on paper, are to be put into a central computer system. Honeywell is to provide two mainframe computers, two minicomputers, 200 visual display terminals and 105 printers at an estimated cost of £3.4m.

The new system, housed at the Scottish Criminal Records Office, Glasgow, will be linked to the eight Scottish forces' own computers and to the police national computer in Hendon, north London.

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To: Loft Conversions Ltd., 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Policy switch urged over TUC talks with Tebbit

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A late attempt is being made by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs headed by Mr Clive Jenkins to ensure that forthcoming talks between the TUC and Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, are not misconstrued.

The Government is hoping that a resumption of contracts between the minister and the TUC will mark the start of a new era of understanding, with the unions accepting the need for big reforms of their internal procedures.

Left-wing union leaders want the TUC to continue its boycott of relations with Mr Tebbit, however, ASTMS has put down a policy amendment for next month's TUC conference permitting such a meeting, but designed to prevent collaboration on Mr Tebbit's terms.

Mr Jenkins's union suggests that the policy position should be: "There can be no exchanges between the Government and the TUC on the basis of the most vigorous defence of union internal democracy, plus a determi-

nation to advance union rights in the face of employer resistance."

That line of argument would be submitted for the proposal by the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Staff Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers that "there can be no discussion with the Government on the subject of anti-union legislation."

While the ASTMS amendment would not rule out talking to Mr Tebbit, it would sharply diminish the prospect of any fruitful outcome of those negotiations, and Mr Jenkins believes that that view will win majority backing from delegates to the TUC conference in Blackpool.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is known to favour a resumption of links with the Secretary of State for Employment on the ground that he may be willing to listen to union arguments against stringent new rules for the operation of union political funds.

Thousands rush to be British

By Nicholas Timmins

The number of people who acquired citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies rose last year by more than half to 82,233, according to figures published by the Home Office yesterday.

The figures reflect improved efficiency in processing applications and the rush to acquire citizenship immediately before the British Nationality Act came into force on January 1.

Of those acquiring citizenship, 31,130 had an absolute entitlement through residence

in Britain before January 31, 1973. A further 18,640 acquired citizenship through marriage.

Most of those registered, 48,436, came from Commonwealth countries. The largest groups were Jamaicans, Indians and Pakistanis.

Citizenship was granted overseas to 2,868 aliens and British protected persons. 2,340 of them in Hongkong, of whom 1,040 were women married to citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. The largest

group, 1,694, were from the People's Republic of China.

Protests are continuing to mount over the Government's recent announcement that it made a £6.43m profit last year on nationality fees. It had calculated that there would be a £1.2m surplus.

The TUC and the London Association of Community Relations Councils have joined the protest at the Government's decision not to act yet on a select committee report urging large cuts in the fees.

Divers told to replace relics

By a Staff Reporter

Divers from a salvage company who removed objects from around the wreck of HMS Hampshire off the Orkneys, have been ordered by the Ministry of Defence to put them back.

The artifacts were brought up by divers from Wharton Williams Taylor of Aberdeen, working with a west German film company making a documentary about the ship, which sank in 1916, killing nearly 700 people, including Lord Kitchener.

Neither the divers nor the AGUF film company had permission to work around the wreck, which is a war grave,

although permission was given for earlier filming in 1978 and 1979.

The ministry said: "All we gave permission for originally was for filming outside the wreck but not for bringing up artifacts."

"HMS Hampshire is a war grave, and the artifacts around her still constitute part of that war grave. We do not expect people to tamper with war graves, and we are waiting to hear from the company what it plans to do."

The objects include a propeller, light cannon, shells and porthole fixtures. Most are now in the Peterhead customs

bonded warehouses.

The ship was rumoured to have been carrying £2m in bullion, but both the film company and the salvage firm denied all knowledge of that. The Ministry of Defence has always denied that the gold existed.

Mr Jonathan Aitken MP, the former TV-am chief who argued the original filming permission, said filming had resumed before official authorization was received because the £30,000 a day salvage ship *Sterna Workorse* had just become available. There had been indications that permission would be forthcoming.

Wreck of lost submarine found

The mysterious disappearance of a British submarine during the Second World War was finally explained yesterday.

HMS *Swordfish*, carrying a crew of 40, was lost in November, 1940, on her twelfth English Channel patrol at a time when Britain was most fearing a German invasion.

It was always assumed that *Swordfish* met her fate off Brest, possibly sunk by German destroyers.

But Mr Martin Woodward, a 34-year-old diver, disclosed yesterday that he had discovered the wreck off St Catherine's Point, the southernmost tip of the Isle of Wight.

Swordfish apparently travelled only 30 miles from the

submarine base at Gosport and struck a German mine.

Mr Woodward, co-owner of Bournemouth Maritime Museum in the Isle of Wight, found the submarine last month while looking for other wrecks. He said she was broken in two and was lying in about 150ft of water.

The wreck has been

declared a war grave and the Ministry of Defence is trying to reach relatives of the dead to invite them to a memorial service.

The 640-ton *Swordfish* was the first of the S-class submarines, all named after fish. Her captain was Lieutenant Michael Langley, of Bournemouth, near Wexhampton.

An earlier attempt at conciliation failed, but both sides have agreed to mediation and saw the mediator, Mr Norman Singleton, separately yesterday.

Equity called a strike of its provincial members from September 5 after talks with the association were deadlocked.

The union is seeking a pay increase of 12 to 15 per cent but the association's final offer was between 5 and 6 per cent.

At present the minimum salary in the subsidized repertory theatre is £84.50 a week. The association's offer would increase the minimum to £89.57 a week, compared with Equity's claim for a £100 a week minimum.

Equity said last night that it expects the report early next week so that the union's council can consider it before meetings throughout the country at the weekend. Equity will make its response to the mediator on August 22.

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Foremen who let night workers sleep lose fight for their jobs

From Arthur O'Shea, Bristol

Three foremen who aided and abetted maintenance workers who slept in secret bedrooms while on the night shift had their claim for unfair dismissal rejected by an industrial tribunal in Bristol yesterday.

The men had claimed that sleeping in makeshift bedrooms had been going on at the microchip factory for between 16 and 23 years and that they would have been in danger of attack from fellow workers if they had reported the practice to the management. But the tribunal chairman, Mr Cecil Parker, rejected those claims and said the men should have reported the matter. By failing to do so, they were guilty of conduct justifying their dismissal.

Mr George Cooper, Mr John Tomlin and Mr Douglas Haigh were dismissed from Plessey Semiconductors of Swindon in April after the four sleeping chambers had been found. They had been built in cavities in the wall and roof and were equipped with mattresses, blankets, sheets, pillows, bedside lights and alarm clocks.

Mr Haigh, aged 39, of Eldene, Swindon, told the tribunal that sleeping on the night shift had probably been going on for 23 years. When he was an apprentice at another factory in 1960 it had been common knowledge that Plessey maintenance men slept at night. He was sure the management must have been aware of it.

Before he became a foreman he had slept on duty "occasionally". "I did feel like telling management what was going on when I became a foreman, but I could not because of the dilemma I was in. Had I told management what was going on I might as well have left because I could not have done the job I was paid to do. The men would have made life impossible for me."

"We were the buffers between management and the workforce and would take kicks from both sides. On the one hand we had

loyalty to the company and on the other loyalty to the men. I felt powerless to do what was my duty."

Mr Cooper, aged 52, of Cottingham, Swindon, had earlier said that he would have been in danger of life and limb if he had reported the matter. When asked if he agreed, Mr Haigh replied: "It is not a possibility that I would rule out."

Mr Tomlin, aged 49, of Green Meadow, Swindon, also said he had occasionally slept on duty before he was appointed foreman.

He said he could not report the practice. "I felt it was a serious matter but, having slept intermittently for seven years myself, how could I go up to workers and say: 'From now on the sleeping has got to stop? I might as well have left the factory there and then.'"

He added: "I am certain management must have known about it. It was known up to under managers that maintenance staff got their heads down on night shift. I think management was condoning it as long as the work was being done."

Mr Conleth Fernandes, for the foremen, said they had allowed sleeping to go on but had not investigated it. "They have been acting as peace keepers between a rather fractious workforce and in their opinion a fairly ineffectual management. The real culprits, the workforce, received written warnings and my clients were dismissed. They were scapegoats and the punishment was excessive for the crime."

But the tribunal unanimously rejected the claim. Mr Parker said he did not believe that the practice had been going on for any great length of time and did not accept that the management condoned it. There was no evidence that any manager above foreman knew about the sleeping.

After the chambers were discovered, the workers had

been called to a meeting and asked for their comments, but no one said anything. The three foremen also declined to give any explanation.

"What was management to do? They had to reach a decision about discipline. They took it as a far more serious matter for the foremen to have been involved", Mr Parker said.

"The men were in the wrong, but if they had sacked all the men they might have been sacking someone who was innocent. They decided to give reprimands to the men. But the three foremen were equally guilty of aiding and abetting a situation of this sort."

"When they were under an obligation to report to their employers any thing they knew about it, they were deceiving their employers by not telling them. Even after management discovered it, they were still not prepared to say anything."

"When a man is made a foreman he becomes part of management and to hear a man say this happened because of the incompetence of management is very wrong. These three were in a position of trust. They should have come to management at the earliest time to say this sort of thing was going on and sought guidance how to deal with it."

Surely anybody exercising commonsense would say that management acted responsibly in the light of what they knew and with the lack of any information or help from the three foremen. We say they acted responsibly and that is the end of the matter."

After the hearing, Plessey welcomed the decision but regretted the action had been necessary.

Mr Cooper said: "The tribunal has made its decision and we accept it. His colleagues declined to comment."

Mr Haigh has now found another job. Mr Tomlin has a temporary job, but Mr Cooper is still out of work.

New arts chief joins battle for funding



Despite posing for Sadek Karadla's photograph on a construction called "Victory" in Kensington Gardens yesterday, Mr Luke Rittner, the new secretary-general of the Arts Council, might feel the symbolism was premature (Christopher Warran, Arts Correspondent, writes).

A controversial choice for the post because of his youth and lack of experience, he claims to have experienced the whole range of difficulties facing the council since he started the job on August 1. He has been thrust immedi-

ately into the battle over the latest round of government cuts, which have taken 1 per cent of the arts budget this year, and has had to defend the council's sponsorship of the exhibition *Edges and Shadows: Sculpture in Britain 1983*, which includes a submarine made from 3,300 old tyres.

The exhibition of 200 works opens on Saturday at the Hayward Gallery, the Serpentine Gallery and in Kensington Gardens.

Speaking at the council's headquarters in Piccadilly

yesterday, Mr Rittner admitted: "I have arrived here at a very difficult time for the arts."

Endorsing the strong opposition voiced by the council against the latest cuts ordered by the Government, Mr Rittner said: "I do not believe that the arts can survive with the loose change in the Treasury's pocket."

Before going to the Arts Council Mr Rittner, aged 36, was director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, and his appointment was widely taken to indicate

greater emphasis on private funding for the arts.

He said yesterday that the Arts Council's grant from the Government had always been restricted and was never enough. "But that does not mean that the council should not encourage other sources of income and encourage its clients to do the same."

More immediately, he said he was excited by the sculpture exhibition, which was full of "witty and inventive ideas". Tyres and all, "Victory" is by William Tucker.

Young GPs turn to alternative medicine

An imminent increase in the use of alternative medicine, particularly hypnosis, manipulation, homeopathy and acupuncture, is suggested by a survey of doctors training to be general practitioners.

A growing interest among patients in alternative medicine was shown in a series of articles in *The Times* earlier this week. More than a third of 86 doctors questioned had referred patients for treatment by hypnosis, manipulation, homeopathy or acupuncture and 12 had referred patients to a non-medically qualified practitioner. Eighteen were themselves giving such treatment and 70 wanted to train in alternative methods.

Back pain was the most common condition for which alternative therapy was used, followed by smoking addiction, pain, anxiety/neurosis, and obesity.

The survey, published in the *British Medical Journal* after analysis of questionnaires answered by young doctors at a conference in Scotland last year, shows that more than a quarter of the doctors had either received or given treatment by alternative therapy. Doctors with personal experience of such treatment were more likely to suggest it for their patients.

The study draws attention to a "surprising degree of interest in alternative methods of treatment among younger doctors". It says: "It is clear that younger doctors view these methods not as alternative but as complementary to more orthodox approaches." More than three quarters of those who took part in the survey were under 30.

Young doctors' interest in alternative medicine is not being met in undergraduate curriculums or by postgraduate training programmes and the public may well turn to lay practitioners to get the alternative therapies they want, the report suggests. The number of lay practitioners in Britain, 27,800, almost equals last year's total of GPs, 29,800, the study says.

An article by Dr Tony Smith, in the same edition of the journal, advises against uncritical acceptance of alternative therapies and suggests that such treatments should be subjected to the same sort of trials and assessment that are applied to new drugs. Dr Smith calls for "informed scepticism" on the part of doctors.

Police take sailor from peace camp

A naval rating had to be dragged by two policemen out of a peace camp in the Clyde where he had spent the night, Dumbarton Sheriff Court was told yesterday.

Francis Kelly, aged 18, of Frederick Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham, had been absent without leave from the Faslane nuclear submarine base for two days when he was found at the peace camp.

The policemen pulled him from a tent at the site and he kneed one of the officers as they took him away.

Kelly admitted assault and resisting arrest and was fined £100. Kelly was discharged from the Navy yesterday after disciplinary action unconnected with the peace camp incident.

Bridge owner loses toll fight

Mr Michael Cox was refused permission yesterday to increase the toll for cars crossing a bridge over the Thames at Swinford, Oxfordshire, from 2p to 10p to raise £500,000 for urgent repairs. Oxfordshire County Council said only £181,000 was needed.

Rejecting Mr Cox's application after a public inquiry, Brigadier R. M. Carr said Mr Cox had not done his homework before buying the bridge for £100,000. He said it would be in the public interest for the county council to take responsibility for repairs.

Man fined for driving ambition

Norwell Joseph, who has failed the driving test 16 times since 1963, was fined £200 at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after he admitted paying a man £200 to impersonate him at Hendon test centre, north-west London. Mr Inigo Bing, for the defence, said of Joseph, aged 51, a plasterer, of Oswald Road, Southall, west London: "To say that he was a bad driver is an overstatement of his ability."

Referee cleared over punch

Mr Bhagwant Sohi, who punched a player while refereeing a football match at a youth club, was cleared yesterday of causing actual bodily harm by Judge Dewhurst at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Sohi, aged 29, of St John's Road, Southall, west London, had cautioned the player for foul play. The judge said: "You do not have to wait until someone hits you to act in self-defence."

Parole refused

Charles Richardson, who was sentenced in 1967 to 25 years imprisonment for gangland offences including grievous bodily harm and robbery with violence, has had his request for parole rejected by the home office for the ninth time.

Plea to halt straw burning rejected

Farmers yesterday rejected a call for a halt to straw-burning in the area where two people died on a road covered by dense smoke. Mr Eric Cowie, fire prevention officer for North Yorkshire, had appealed to farmers not to burn waste straw until rain has fallen, which

By Our Environment Correspondent would help to prevent smoggy burning quickly.

A man and a woman died on Tuesday when nine vehicles were involved in a crash on the A19 near Thirsk, North Yorkshire. Thick smoke was drifting across the road from a hedge beside a field farmed by

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Consett, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire.

The National Farmers' Union said it stood by its voluntary burning code.

"We are not stopping," a union spokesman said yesterday.

1982/3 A significant year for British Telecom customers.

Main prices were pegged at 1981 levels. More trunk and overseas charges were cut, saving customers £300 million a year. In real terms current prices are 20% lower than they were 12 years ago.

A low-user rebate scheme worth £12.5 million benefited two million customers - especially those whose phones are a vital lifeline.

The waiting list for new phones was cut from 20,000 to the point where it is now almost non-existent.

There was a marked improvement in meeting larger business orders - and almost 80% of smaller business orders were met inside eight working days.

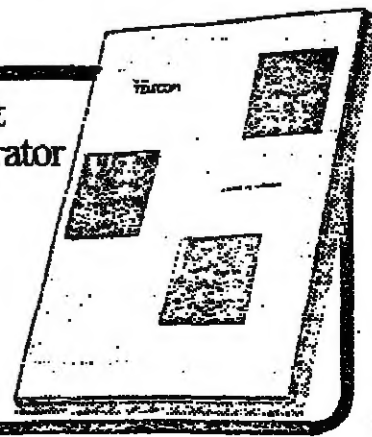
Quality of service improved. 85% of line faults were repaired within one working day, compared with 80% the previous year. Over 200 more local electronic exchanges entered service and more than 40% of all customers are now served by modern exchanges.

The callbox service was improved. Another 2,300 push-button payphones were installed and 8,300 more cardphones ordered.

In all, £1,600 million was invested to provide our 19 million customers with better and more modern telecommunications - and to keep British Telecom a world leader in new technology.

If you would like a copy of British Telecom's Report to Customers 1982/83 please dial 100 and ask the operator for FREEPHONE REPORT TO CUSTOMERS.

British
TELECOM
Better communications for everyone.



Second 'mole' joined hunt

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A second "mole" has been seeking evidence of animal cruelty in the guise of a keen hunt supporter, the League Against Cruel Sports claimed yesterday. It said that he had often worked with Mr Michael Huskisson, a member of the Hunt Saboteurs' Association whose work as a bogus hunt supporter has been disclosed in *The Times*.

The Association of Masters of Mink and Coyote Hounds has begun an investigation of film taken by Mr Huskisson when he followed the Three Counties Minkhounds. The existence of a second "mole" was disclosed as Mr Huskisson continued to tell *The Times* of his role.

The league did not produce the second man or any evidence that he existed. But Mr Huskisson said that if hunts

challenged his evidence of cruelty, the second man would be able to corroborate it.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the league, said that unlike Mr Huskisson the second man was still a league employee who had followed hunts on its behalf for three years. Mr Course claimed that the second man had taken film two years ago of fox cubs being dug from an earth and taken in a vehicle to a recognizable hunt kennels.

He refused to identify that hunt or the one at which Mr Huskisson claims to have photographed a captured wild fox being released from a bag in front of hounds. Such an act is illegal. The league hopes to sell the photographs to a Sunday newspaper to appear at the start of the hunting season.

Mr Huskisson said that he submitted photographs to hunting magazines when genuine hunt supporters began to wonder aloud why he took so many pictures of hunts. One of his photographs was published in *Horse and Hound* in February. "It was a boost to my cover," Mr Huskisson said.

"When they asked why I was taking so many photographs I could reply that I had had one in *Horse and Hound*. That satisfied them."

Mr Michael Clayton, editor of the magazine, said that he could not confirm or deny accepting a photograph submitted by Mr Huskisson under an assumed name. "I am not the slightest bit embarrassed if we published one by him. I judge photographs by their merit, not their sources."

Mr Michael Cox was refused permission yesterday to increase the toll for cars crossing a bridge over the Thames at Swinford, Oxfordshire, from 2p to 10p to raise £500,000 for urgent repairs. Oxfordshire County Council said only £181,000 was needed.

Rejecting Mr Cox's application after a public inquiry, Brigadier R. M. Carr said Mr Cox had not done his homework before buying the bridge for £100,000. He said it would be in the public interest for the county council to take responsibility for repairs.

Norwell Joseph, who has failed the driving test 16 times since 1963, was fined £200 at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after he admitted paying a man £200 to impersonate him at Hendon test centre, north-west London.

Mr Bhagwant Sohi, who punched a player while refereeing a football match at a youth club, was cleared yesterday of causing actual bodily harm by Judge Dewhurst at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Sohi, aged 29, of St John's Road, Southall, west London, had cautioned the player for foul play. The judge said: "You do not have to wait until someone hits you to act in self-defence."

Charles Richardson, who was sentenced in 1967 to 25 years imprisonment for gangland offences including grievous bodily harm and robbery with violence, has had his request for parole rejected by the home office for the ninth time.

Five more Kos typhoid cases confirmed

The number of confirmed cases of typhoid among British holidaymakers returning from the Greek island of Kos jumped from 24 to 29 yesterday; the number of suspected cases was down from three to two. Like earlier victims, the latest suffered all stayed at the Ramira Beach hotel between June 29 and July 6 (Stephen Goodwin writes).

It was confirmed from Athens yesterday that the water who the Greek authorities believe to have been the source of the outbreak was working at the hotel during that period. There had earlier been some uncertainty over the dates of his employment.

The water will undergo further tests in Athens to establish whether he is a permanent carrier. A Dublin woman has been found to have typhoid after a holiday in Athens and Crete. She had not been to Kos.

First itemized bill for phone users

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first batch of 52,000 itemized telephone bills have been sent by British Telecom to customers in three exchanges in the Bristol area.

The equipment which provides the information for the billing has been made by Telesciences, an American company, and installed by STC, a British company, at Bristol Redcliffe, Bristol West and Bath Kingsmead exchanges.

If the pilot scheme is successful, the programme is to be extended. British Telecom intends to offer itemized billing to all customers through System X, its new digital telephone exchanges but these will not be installed nationally until the end of the decade.

The equipment installed in Bristol is in two parts - the monitoring units, from which the information is called to make the bills, and the computer system that holds the

data. The monitoring equipment comprises microcomputer terminals of which there are six in Redcliffe, 15 in Bristol West and 31 in Kingsmead.

British Telecom is able constantly to monitor the operation using the terminals' visual display screens. The information to be used ultimately for billing is held in the central computer to which the terminals are attached. A computer tape containing the customer details is then sent to British Telecom's billing computer centre.

The customer bill shows the rental charge and one entry stating the total charge for all calls, both dialed and made through the operator. An attached statement gives the breakdown of trunk and international calls with their date, starting time, the number dialed, the duration of the call and the price.

Artillery reply to Druze attack

Beirut airport shelling
spurs Lebanese
Army back into action

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

For the first time in more than seven years, the Lebanese Army went into action yesterday to defend west Beirut and with it the steadily diminishing prestige of President Amin Gemayel's Government.

After Druze militias had poured an artillery barrage on to Beirut airport, killing at least four people and wounding another 30, Lebanese troops fired salvo after salvo of shells from mortars and 155mm artillery at Druze positions three miles from the city.

Given the delicate state of negotiations between the Government and the Druze, into whose mountain fastnesses the Lebanese Army will shortly have to move when the Israeli Army begins its withdrawal, the order to Lebanese troops to bombard the Druze was intended to prove that President Gemayel's Government means business.

The Druze militias responded by turning their artillery on the Lebanese barracks at Yazez not far from Mr Gemayel's palace.

For much of the day, clouds of smoke rose from the Israeli occupied Chouf foothills and from beside a line of half-ruined apartment blocks near the village of Schamoun as Lebanese army shells exploded up the valleys. From the doubtful sanctuary of a dirt hole which I shared with five United States marines of the multinational peacekeeping force on the airport perimeter it was possible to feel the tremendous vibration of the Druze militia's return fire.

But on the roof of the marine battalion headquarters, it was

clear that the Lebanese Army's initiative was beginning to pay off. Shells whizzed over our heads in salvos of five for well over more than an hour as Marines in helmets and flak jackets followed the course of the conflict through binoculars like spectators at a Napoleonic battle.

Lebanese half-tracks cruised the airport highway, the heavily-armed soldiers on board making victory signs and waving with a new-found confidence only slightly marred by the sight of a Lebanese gun crew vainly seeking somewhere to position their brand-new American-Suwwid howitzer.

Tel Aviv - Five Israeli Arabs were shot yesterday near Kiryat Gat when their lorry was sprayed with automatic fire from a passing car. Police sources blamed a criminal feud between Arabs. A bomb was planted in the home of the driver, a month ago. The driver, his wife and 10-year-old son were among the casualties.

By late afternoon, a ceasefire had reportedly been arranged by the Israeli Army, from whose area of control the Druze had launched their bombardment. But earlier in the day there were scenes of chaos around the airport as Grad missiles exploded along the runways beside a Belgian Sabena jetliner and in the suburbs of Ouzai and Bourj el-Brajneh killing three women and a small boy who was walking to school. A Marine was wounded in the leg by shrapnel.

Shortly after 10am, Mr

Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, turned up at the Marine base, immaculately dressed in a blue business suit but looking deeply worried. He refused to comment on the attack but while he was closeted with Colonel Timothy Geraghty, the Marine commander, a shell exploded 400 yards from the base and Marine officers began to scream instructions.

"Get in the holes, get in the goddam foxholes", one of them shouted as journalists and Marines buried themselves into the earth bunkers.

Just beyond the marine perimeter, a field had been set alight and a tongue of flame sprang up amid a burning olive grove. As the firing continued, units of the American Sixth Fleet moored in the bay beside the airport moved off station and sailed south at high speed, leaving two destroyers to cruise a mile offshore. Over at Yazez where the Lebanese Army has its largest barracks, an ominous mushroom of white smoke climbed into the air.

The Druze attacks on Beirut were a deliberate challenge to the Lebanese Government to support Druze demands for a change in the Lebanese National Covenant.

Yesterday, President Gemayel decided to meet the challenge and show that his Army had teeth. Entering the Chouf, however, might turn out to be another matter. Both Syria and Israel have been rearming the Druze over the past month, and Syria for one will shed no tears if the Chouf turns into a battleground.

Assad's view, page 8



New leader: General Mejia, at his first press conference after seizing power, pledges to step up fight against the guerrillas.

Mejia puts back the clock in Guatemala

The installation of General Oscar Mejia as Guatemala's new head of government marks a return to a traditional, solidly right-wing type of military leadership from the ousted President, General Efraim Rios Montt, represented a significant deviation (John Carlin writes).

Not only did General Rios Montt rupture the time-honoured bond between the Guatemalan military and the Roman Catholic Church, he also expressed an unorthodox enthusiasm for social reforms as the most effective, and long-lasting, means of combating left-wing subversion in Guatemala.

General Rios Montt pursued a "beans and bullets" offensive in the politically volatile Guatemalan country side which, in

recent months, was beginning to place more and more emphasis on the beans, on programmes aimed at relieving the hunger and squalor prevalent among Guatemala's majority peasant population.

But the immediate result of General Rios Montt's social policies was an upsurge in guerrilla activity. Now General Mejia, a more predictable establishment figure, has promised "to fight by any means to eradicate Marxist-Leninist subversion", with every indication that he will squish a programme of agrarian reform which General Rios Montt planned, a reform which would have involved the redistribution of non-productive land.

General Mejia, who is 53, graduated as

a member of Guatemala's officer corps in March 1953. In 1955 he trained at a United States air base in the Panama Canal Zone. He then proceeded to take a wide range of courses, before focusing his attention on the parachute regiment.

On Tuesday he declared that Nicaragua's Sandinista Government represented "a grave danger" to the Isthmus adding that he thought President Reagan's current belligerent attitude toward Nicaragua was "most apt".

MANAGUA: Compulsory military service will go into effect in Nicaragua in October under a Bill presented to the Council of State in Tuesday by Señor Humberto Ortega, the Defence Minister (AFP reports).

Born-again Kissinger gets ready to travel

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Dr Henry Kissinger's rehabilitation into international politics was formally blessed when he and 11 other members of a presidential commission on Central America were sworn in yesterday.

Almost immediately the commission met for the first time. One of the top items on the agenda is a visit by all members to Central America, including Nicaragua, whose government is supposedly a

source of arms and comfort for

Leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. The commission has been charged by President Reagan with producing long term policy options for Central America. In the past, Mr Reagan has been scornful of Dr Kissinger but decided to invite him back into the spotlight to draw attention to the administration's aims and strategies in Central America.

The commission's first day included a series of classified briefings from the State Department, CIA and other government sources. A meeting with President Reagan is planned today and there will be lunch tomorrow with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

There have already been contacts between Dr Kissinger and some commission members in Washington and the tone, according to Nicaraguan officials, was less than friendly. The Nicaraguans said they would defend themselves, without outside help, against any United States military intervention and

could mobilize an army of 500,000 men.

Last week Dr Kissinger and some commission members met the ambassadors of El Salvador and Honduras as well as the charges d'affaires of Guatemala and Costa Rica. It was agreed that the commission would visit all four countries and the Nicaraguans agreed. Meanwhile more US military men have arrived in Honduras in a rapid build-up towards extensive military exercises in the region.

Shagari set for late run from behind

Lagos (Reuters) - Opposition

protests mounted yesterday as President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria edged closer to a second four-year term with each new result declared from last Saturday's election.

With 11 of the 19 state results announced, and almost sure wins from at least five northern states, President Shagari looked set for victory. His main rival, Mr Obafemi Awolowo of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), is about one million votes ahead but his strongholds have already been announced and he seems unlikely to win 25 per cent in 13 states, as the constitution requires.

The most significant trend so far is that the big parties, all originally ethnically based, have increased their share of the votes outside the areas they won in the last election in 1979.

Leading article, page 9

Israeli troops living increasingly on nerves

From Christopher Walker

Jezze, Southern Lebanon

With 33 Israeli soldiers killed in occupied Lebanon since the beginning of the year and more than 180 wounded, the 30,000 troops still remaining are living increasingly on their nerves. They are also becoming daily more isolated from the local population.

Outside the picturesque town of Jezze, the roads are scorched black by tyres set ablaze last week when some 20,000 Christians took part in a mass anti-Israeli demonstration prompted by Israel's expulsion of Phalangist militia from the barracks at Kfar Faleh east of Sidon.

Since the angry Christians took to the streets there have also been anti-Israeli demonstrations in many of the Muslim villages under Israeli control. Threats of anti-Israeli action have also come from leaders of the Lebanon's Druze community.

Sitting this week in a convoy of Israeli vehicles trapped in a

Church 'no' to censure of Moscow

Vancouver (Reuters) - The

World Council of Churches assembly, after strenuous protests from senior Soviet churchmen, has rejected a call for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The vote came after an emotional 90-minute debate in which delegates from several countries backed attempts to strengthen a resolution calling for an end to aid for Afghan rebels and a withdrawal of Soviet troops, only after a comprehensive settlement guaranteed by East and West.

Bishop Gunnar Listerud, Church of Norway Lutheran, objected. He said the proposal should be changed to a call for an immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops. He also took issue with a proposed call to end outside arms supplies to the rebels, whom he called "liberation groups".

Members of the Russian Orthodox delegation took to the microphone afterwards, with Metropolitan Kirill of Leningrad asking: "What benefit will this bring to the people of Afghanistan?"

Metropolitan Yuvveny of Moscow called the Norwegian bishop's amendment "senseless" and added: "The Soviet government has repeatedly said it would withdraw troops when the security of the Afghan Republic is assured."

The delegates then defeated the amendment and passed the original proposal, 478-21.

Unity step: The Roman Catholic church is moving towards reconciliation with the largely Protestant World Council of Churches through joint work aimed at ending spiritual over doctrine, a Vatican official said yesterday.

The WCC has authorized a world conference, expected in 1987, at which delegates from the principal churches would attempt to combine efforts for reconciling doctrinal differences.

Sleeping tourist murdered

Avignon (AFP) - A young German tourist was robbed and killed and seven other tourists attacked in their parked cars in a wave of banditry in southern France. The victims, attacked in separate incidents over 36 hours, included British, Dutch and Swiss nationals. There have been about 50 similar attacks in the south of France in the past six weeks.

Herr Hans Lendcke, aged 19, a West German, was sleeping in his car beside a beach at Fréjus, on the Mediterranean, when a man smashed the rear window and stabbed him fatally.

Volta Army chief killed

Ouagadougou (AFP) - Upper Volta's former Army chief of staff and a former commando regiment commander have been killed trying to escape from the new military rulers, officials claimed here.

The arrests of Colonel Some Yoran Sabali and Major Guebre Fidele were announced only on Tuesday. Officials said that "some sinister counter-revolutionary individuals" had tried to release Colonel Some Yoran.

Soviet official to visit China

Peking (AP) - Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, will visit China from September 8-16, in the latest step in efforts to ease Sino-Soviet tensions.

Mr Qi Huiyuan, director of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said that Mr Kapitsa had been invited by Mr Qian Qichen, Vice Foreign Minister, who has headed China's delegation in two rounds of consultations with the Soviet Union.

Star-struck



The actress Twiggy was temporarily knocked out of her Broadway musical *My One and Only* when a huge, pink, moon-shaped prop fell on her (AP reports). The performance was cancelled and she went home to rest.

\$10m award

Detroit (AP) - A jury has ordered a division of Litton Industries to pay \$10m (\$6.75m) compensation to the family of a man killed in 1979 by one of its one-ton robots at the Ford casting plant in Flat Rock, Michigan.

Atomic Peking

Peking (AP) - China formally indicated that it wanted to join the International Atomic Energy Agency, in a statement by the director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Information department, Mr Qi Huiyuan.

Jet baby well

Melbourne - Mrs Sheryl Skirton, the cancer victim who gave birth on board a jumbo jet on Tuesday was doing well last night. The Hospital said: "Mrs Skirton had a good night and the baby is in a stable condition and not causing concern."

Armenian bomb

Tehran (Reuters) - An Armenian guerrilla group claimed responsibility for exploding a bomb attached to a diplomat's car in the compound of the French Embassy in Tehran. No injuries were reported.

Taiwan-bound

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean officials say the Chinese test pilot who defected will probably be allowed to go to a third country, believed to mean Taiwan.

Caught napping

Madrid (Reuters) - The old Spanish custom of sleeping through the hot afternoon, the siesta, is dying out according to a survey which shows that fewer than two Spaniards in 10 now regularly take a nap after lunch.

Israelis devalue by 7.5%

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

In what amounted to an about-turn in the policy of Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, the Israeli government yesterday ended weeks of frenetic currency speculation by announcing a 7.5 per cent devaluation of the shekel.

Ironically, it came less than 24 hours after the Finance Ministry had failed to stem the tide of demand for dollar notes by claiming that no Israelis would profit from such purchases. Recently the public has even been speculating in travellers' cheques because they believed devaluation was inevitable.

The move - widely interpreted as an admission of defeat for the unsuccessful, anti-inflation policy pursued since last September - is intended as the first stage of a drastic, economic recovery programme.

Against the advice of most Israeli economists, Mr Aridor had attempted to stem hyperinflation, now running at 145 per cent, by retarding the devaluation of the shekel. His experiment was roundly attacked by the International Monetary Fund earlier this year.

Although officials cited the new strength of the US dollar in relation to leading European currencies as the main cause of the devaluation, political observers noted that the government's economic policy has recently been pinpointed as one of the chief causes of its falling popularity.

Even as the devaluation was being announced by the Central Bank (whose governor has himself recently joined the chorus of criticism against economic policy) senior ministers were meeting to try and agree a swinging series of budget cuts.

The Treasury has called for across-the-board cuts of 55 billion shekels (about £705 million) but these are being fiercely resisted by some spending departments.

Among the controversial suggestions put forward has been a tax on child allowances, a reduction in tax benefits for invalids, an increase in health service charges and a 20 billion shekel cut in the massive defence budget.

The extent of the proposed cuts and their potential unpopularity have caused bitter arguments inside the government.

Sri Lanka updates riot death toll to 350

From Our Correspondent Colombo

The death toll in the recent ethnic rioting, earlier stated to be 269, was yesterday revised upwards officially to 350.

Mr Douglas Liyanage, a government spokesman, said the latest figures showed 316 civilians dead, mostly killed by civilians, and 34 killed by the security forces. These included the deaths of looters.

Mr Liyanage said it was possible that not all the dead had been counted but described as pure fiction a statement by the World Council of Churches in Geneva that over 1,000 had been lost. He also denied reports by the organization that troops in the north had raped three women and razed a town.

The total number in camps for displaced persons in Colombo was about 23,000.

Curfew goes on: Mr Liyanage said a 10pm to 4am curfew would remain in force through next weekend in Colombo and eight of the 25 national districts, though the last report occurred on August 1 (AP reports).

DELHI: Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday met Mr H. H. Jayewardene, brother and personal emissary of President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka, to discuss the recent killings of minority Tamils (AP reports).

Mr Jayewardene said after his 75-minute meeting in Mrs Gandhi's office at Parliament House that the talks were "very good". He said India was doing quite a lot for his people and providing relief.



Down the aisle again

Elizabeth Taylor is to marry Mr Victor Gonzalez Luna, a lawyer, she has told friends in Philadelphia. It will be her eighth walk down the aisle and the couple, photographed recently in New York, plan the wedding before the end of the year. To celebrate, she gave a party after one of her performances in Noel Cow-

ard's Private Lives. Guests included Richard Burton, Miss Taylor's co-star in Private Lives, who was twice married to her. Her other husbands were: Nicky Hilton, actor Michael Wilding, producer Mike Todd, singer Eddie Fisher, and John Warner, who became a US senator during their marriage.

Search widens for teenager seized by rebels

From Our Correspondent Harare

Zimbabwean security forces are still seeking a teenager apparently abducted after his father was murdered on their tobacco farm in the Eastern Highlands almost a week ago.

Mr John Farodi was shot dead on the verandah of his home in the Burma Valley south of Mutema last Thursday. His son, Giovanni, aged 14, disappeared and is assumed to have been kidnapped although no confirmation has been received.

Local farmers and some military sources believe that the murder and abduction were carried out by guerrillas of the Mozambique Resistance Movement

Court victory for the Spanish home rulers

From Harry Debelias, Madrid

Spain's constitutional tribunal handed a victory to Basque and Catalan nationalists yesterday with a ruling which virtually invalidates a 1981 law designed to restrict the powers of regional governments. The Organic Law for Harmonization of the Autonomy Process, was the result of a pact between the then ruling Centre Democratic Union, and its Socialist Opposition which was intended to guarantee the central government's authority to overrule decisions of home rule governments.

The court, which has the last word on constitutional matters, said the law was neither organic nor used to designate legislation of a semi-constitutional level - nor did it harmonize the autonomy process. The judges also struck out fully or partially 14 of the law's 38 articles. The verdict and sentence were formally communicated to both central and regional government officials as well as to the 50 deputies from the previous legislature, most of them representatives of regional parties or Communists.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said it had not seen a full text, but the letter had to be considered in the context of recent incidents around the Falklands.

Generally, the Argentine letter is seen as preparing the ground for this autumn's meeting of the UN General Assembly.

Whitehall cool to junta's Falklands plea

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

The Foreign Office yesterday reacted coolly to an Argentine call for an early resumption of negotiations about the future of the Falkland Islands.

The demand, in a letter to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, UN Secretary-General, said that the sooner negotiations were resumed, the better would be the chances of a "just and lasting solution".

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said it had not seen a full text, but the letter had to be considered in the context of recent incidents around the Falklands.

Generally, the Argentine letter is seen as preparing the ground for this autumn's meeting of the UN General Assembly.

Kyprianou and Greeks discuss UN Cyprus deal

From Mario Motiano Athens

President Kyprianou of Cyprus cut short his Greek island holiday and hurried back to Nicosia yesterday after consultations with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

The two leaders considered the latest initiative of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, who submitted "a number of points in the form of an informal sounding".

Mr Kyprianou and Mr Papandreu refused to comment after their talks. Clearly the secrecy is to protect the Secretary-General's initiative from the sort of disclosures that doomed the efforts of his predecessor, Dr Kurt Waldheim, on this intractable issue.

World chess body bars second Soviet player

Lucerne (AP) - In a move likely to enrage the Soviet Chess Federation, the Lucerne-based World Chess Federation (Fide) announced that a second Soviet candidate had been disqualified from the world chess championship.

Fide said that Vasily Smyslov the Soviet grandmaster, was disqualified and his opponent, Zoltan Ribli, of Hungary, would advance to meet Viktor Korchnoi to decide who meets Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union, the world champion.

Last week the other Soviet challenger, Gary Kasparov, was disqualified when he failed to

appear in Pasadena, California, to play against Korchnoi, a Soviet exile living in Switzerland.

The outcome of the other semi-final match which had to be held last Saturday in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, was left in doubt when the local chess federation withdrew its offer to host the Ribli-Smyslov game.

Mr Florencio Campomanes, the Fide president, said the failure of the Russians to respond to repeated invitations from Abu Dhabi resulted in the disqualification of Smyslov.

Anti-Pinochet protests prompt Cabinet reshuffle

From Florencia Varas Santiago

Chilean opposition leaders expect the fourth national day of protest today to be the biggest and most important so far. The Chilean supreme court has just confirmed the right of citizens to dissent and to carry out peaceful protests. The main demands are President Augusto Pinochet's resignation and a rapid return to democratic rule.

Events in Chile in recent months have forced the Government to consider bringing forward the deadlines laid down in the 1980 constitution, which enables General Pinochet to continue as president until 1989.

Earlier this week General

Pinochet held meetings with his principal advisers and high-ranking military officers. He is expected to name a new cabinet, including a Prime Minister, in order to neutralize today's protests.

A leading candidate for the new post of Prime Minister, with almost unlimited powers, is Señor Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Chile's Ambassador in Buenos Aires, who is said to favour a programme of economic recovery and a gradual political opening, with a return of exiles and greater press freedom.

However, political events in Chile are moving far quicker than the Government, and the changes may have come too late. An opposition alliance,

known as the Democratic Alliance, has been formed by right-wing groups, the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats. It is headed by the former Foreign Minister, Señor Gabriel Valdés.

The Alliance is asking for the resignation of all Government officials and a return to democratic rule within 18 months. The alliance excludes all Marxist parties and calls for the participation of the armed forces in government.

On the other hand, a big left-wing coalition has been formed, headed by the Socialists, and including the Christian Left, Mapu and the Socialist Con-

gence as well as the Communist Party.

They are calling for the resignation of all Government members, the return of the armed forces to their barracks and elections within six months.

There are signs that the opposition to General Pinochet has spread to the barracks. A document circulating in the armed forces, addressed to "patriotic officers", calls for a change in the head of state, citing the international isolation of Chile, the deterioration in the image of the military, the economic crisis that has ruined productive industries and the widespread corruption in circles close to the government.

Craxi presents policies of a coalition leader rather than a Socialist

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi, the country's first Socialist Prime Minister, is due to receive his mandate of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies today and on Saturday the Senate will pronounce in his favour.

No doubts are expressed about his ability to win the necessary Parliamentary approval. His coalition, drawn from five parties, has a solid majority and the programme which he produced on Tuesday night is devoid of disturbing initiatives likely to upset any of his allies.

He went out of his way to change the method of presenting his Government than the contents of his programme. He said that his Administration was "not conservative" and that was about as far as he went in defining its political character.

"He sought an impression of greater efficiency by speaking comparatively briefly, while distributing a more detailed text to the deputies to study as he spoke. His good intentions did not overcome the customary problems, however, because his texts were in fact not ready until well after he had begun to talk and the combined 120 pages of the two documents can hardly be regarded as a contribution towards economy of words.

Signor Craxi is seen to have

spoken more as leader of a disparate coalition than as the country's first Socialist Prime Minister and comment is divided between commending him for this and criticizing an attitude seen to be too close to his recent predecessors.

He dwelt at length on foreign policy. He saw the European Community as the heart of Italy's relations, though he referred as well to the inadequacy of the Community's institutions. The defensive and security aims within the Atlantic alliance were the pivot of the country's political and military policy.

He was firmly against any form of unilateral disarmament, favouring instead a "disarmament negotiated on a basis of seriousness, reciprocal concessions and adequate controls". Shortly before he spoke, there had been demonstrations by pacifists at Corrida, the town in Sicily where cruise missiles are due to be based.

He summarized his programme in five points: international policy objectives; economic recovery, through a policy of development and employment; a social policy to help those who needed it (saying the welfare state was "perhaps the greatest achievement of European civilization in this century"); the struggle against crime and the problems of justice; and the reform and modernization of the country's institutions.

He made the struggle against inflation the "immediate and dominant objective" of his Government with development and employment as medium-term projects. He intends bringing inflation down from its current 16-17 per cent to 10 per cent in 1984.

In the same period he proposed removing 10,000 billion lire (£4.05 billion) from the current public indebtedness of 90,000 billion lire. The Turin newspaper *La Stampa* described these aims as "certainly not utopian but also not easy to put into effect".

The first speaker who rose after the Prime Minister was Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, who criticized the Government as simply a new edition of the old type of coalition.

The Communists are faced with a difficult line of attack. Signor Craxi gave undertakings to his Christian Democrat allies - though how binding is not yet clear - to abandon alliances with the Communists at local government level.

In his speech, however, he suggested a greater flexibility.

the attack on the train Bologna-Florence 571. A communiqué will follow.

A bomb blast at Bologna station on August 2, 1980, killed 85 people and wounded 200 others in Europe's worst post-war terrorist attack.

Neo-fascists bomb Italian train

Florence (AP) - An anonymous telephone caller to a Rome newspaper claimed responsibility yesterday for the bombing of a crowded train that slightly injured two crew members.

Investigators said the bomb

exploded shortly before midnight on Tuesday near Vernio, about 15 miles north of Florence, and halted railway traffic in the area for several hours.

The male caller to *Il Tempo* said: "This is the Black Order ... We claim responsibility for

the attack on the train Bologna-Florence 571. A communiqué will follow.

A bomb blast at Bologna station on August 2, 1980, killed 85 people and wounded 200 others in Europe's worst post-war terrorist attack.

The Presley industry, six years on

Picking over the saint's bones at Nostalgia Inc

From Trevor Fishlock, Memphis

Although the temperature is in the sticky 90s the pilgrims are here in their thousands, resigned without resentment to a long wait at the shrine.

When their turn comes, announced over loudspeakers, they are shuttled in small, grey buses through the wrought iron gates of 3764 Elvis Presley Boulevard and up the gravel drive to what the tour guide describes as "the fortress Elvis called home".

This is Graceland, Mr Presley's residence, deathplace and grave, heart of the booming Elvis industry. Presley has been dead for six years but his death seemed merely an incidental event in a stream of worship and profit. Even the most mundane of his possessions are the show business equivalent of saint's bones.

Since his relic-filled house was opened to the public just over a year ago, 3,000 people have been through it every day at \$4 a head. It is the centrepiece of a \$9 coach tour which also includes a stop for home at the Presley statue in Neale Street and at the recording studio where the immortal and revolutionary tones were first confined to wax.

Next Tuesday, the anniversary of Presley's death, more than 50,000 people are expected in Memphis for memorial services, a "Remember Elvis" convention and sales and exhibits of Presleyana.

The newly opened Heartbreak Hotel, a restaurant, expects to do good business. Its pink walls, hung with photographs of the singer in his prime, are lit with pink neon, and diners will be able to go to a 1956 pink Cadillac, much like the one Presley owned, which has been tastefully converted into a salad bar. The Elvis industry is the only growing one



Graveside homage: A pilgrim at Elvis Presley's grave

caland Free Parking" floating overhead.

The ferry buses crunch up to Graceland's pillared porch and visitors find themselves on a production line as young guides move them rapidly from one room to the next. The guides are eager, fresh-faced clones, girls and boys dressed in blue-striped shirts and blue ties, who deliver the doctrine of maseparated and unpunctuated words.

The temple's interior is opulent with gold-fringed peacock blue curtaining over the windows and archways, and there are mirrors everywhere.

There is a mirror-topped dining table ("This is where Elvis used to eat"), a gold-plated piano worth \$500,000 and a billiard table complete with a three-inch rip in the baize made by Presley's bodyguard.

The pilgrims also see some of the rock'n'roll king's 15 television sets (the guide explains that Presley liked watching television) although they do not see the set whose screen Presley shot out when a programme annoyed him. This brutalized set is in a nearby private museum which also houses "the guitar that changed the world" and Presley's "most photographed necklace".

But the house, of course, is the thing. There is the bar and soda fountain with its black and yellow furnishings, mirrored ceilings and three television sets; Presley's den with its fur-upholstered chairs, crafted in Memphis, and his carport with a 1955 pink Fleetwood and a mauve jeep.

Then there is the trophy room containing the petition signed by fans begging Uncle Sam to keep their hero out of the army; there is his army uniform and helmet with the honourable discharge papers recording Sergeant Presley's honest and faithful service.

"And this," says the guide, "is the most impressive hallway you will ever see in your life."

Here, indeed, is an avenue of gold discs recognizing more than 800 million record sales. The titles are a litany for millions of people, the echoes of youth.

Almost every photograph is of the singer in his heyday and there are very few from the years of decline, when he was fat, puffy and aimless.

Finally there is the garden of meditation, as it is called, where the singer's grave is set in a circular, walled plaza. A fountain plays and a statue stands guard. It looks Christ-like but has the word "Presley" inscribed at its feet.

The pilgrims shuffle by.



Elvis Presley: More profitable in death than life

Many of them are grey-haired. Presley's fans possess an indestructible loyalty: women still chalk their names on the gates of Graceland and the *Graceland News* reports progress in a campaign to have January 8, Presley's birthday, declared National Elvis Day.

Presley is even more profitable in death than in life, and the lawyers are still sorting out the tangle of his estate. He used to have a catchphrase T.C.B. It stood for "taking care of business." The Elvis business, like the beat, goes on.

Queensland political chaos

Snap election threatens 'boots and all' Premier

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Queensland may face a snap state election, possibly next month, which could mean the end for Mr John Bjelke-Petersen, aged 72, the last old-fashioned "boots and all" politician in Australia.

The National Party-Liberal coalition, which has ruled Queensland for 26 years, is in tatters after Mr Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier, refused on Tuesday to accept Mr Terry White, the new Liberal leader, as Deputy Premier, the post traditionally reserved for the leader of the junior coalition partner or even to accept him in his Cabinet.

Mr White was elected Liberal leader after Dr Llew Edwards stepped aside on Tuesday when he realized that he could not survive a leadership challenge. The Liberal MPs voted 16 to 4 in favour of Mr White.

The leadership crisis came about when Mr White, Minister for Welfare Services, crossed

the floor of the Queensland Parliament with seven Liberal backbenchers last week to vote with the Labour Party opposition on a motion to open debate on the need for a public accounts committee.

It is Liberal policy to support such a committee, but it is opposed by the Premier. Mr White was dismissed from his portfolio by Dr Edwards, who was immediately faced with a backbench revolt.

The Labour Party, in the wilderness in Queensland since 1957, would need 17 more seats to take office.

The rough-and-tumble of Queensland politics was well illustrated yesterday when Mr White and Mr Bjelke-Petersen appeared on a television debate. Mr White accused the Premier of cowardice, while Mr Bjelke-Petersen said Mr White should resign and the Liberal Party should provide a new leader.

The Premier also accused Mr White of breaking Cabinet solidarity. "He went behind my back, without asking me or anybody else and took out of the government's hands a decision we had made in Cabinet."

Mr Bjelke-Petersen, asked if there were any room for negotiation, said: "I don't negotiate with people who can't be trusted, who vote with the Labour Party - no way."

For Mr Bjelke-Petersen, the only alternative to calling an early election is to dissolve the coalition agreement with the Liberals and to form a minority government.



Mr Bjelke-Petersen: Refuses to negotiate

Why Soviet diplomat was suspect

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne

Mr Valery Ivanov, the Soviet diplomat expelled from Australia on April 22 as a spy, was placed under surveillance by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) as soon as he arrived in Australia in June 1981 to take up his post as first secretary at the Soviet Embassy.

This was disclosed yesterday when 500 pages of evidence given to the Hope Royal Commission into Australia's security services by Mr Harvey Barnett, the Director General of ASIO, were released.

It revealed that ASIO was alerted to the possibility of Mr Ivanov's being a KGB agent because he was only 33 when appointed, which ASIO considered too young for such a senior position.

From the day of his arrival, it was apparent that Mr Ivanov was acquainted with several members of the KGB in Canberra already identified by ASIO.

Mr Barnett had told Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, that Mr Ivanov had cultivated a wide range of Australian citizens and had used his positions as officer in charge of the Australian-Soviet Union Friendship Society to make a number of contacts.

Help from a friend for Andropov

From Richard Owen, Moscow

General Vitaly Fedorchuk, the Soviet Interior Minister, has thrown his weight behind President Andropov's renewed discipline campaign, warning Russians that the police will be vigilant and ruthless in dealing with offenders.

The Andropov leadership launched a crackdown on drinkers at the beginning of the year, and this week announced new, stiffer penalties for idling, absenteeism and drunkenness.

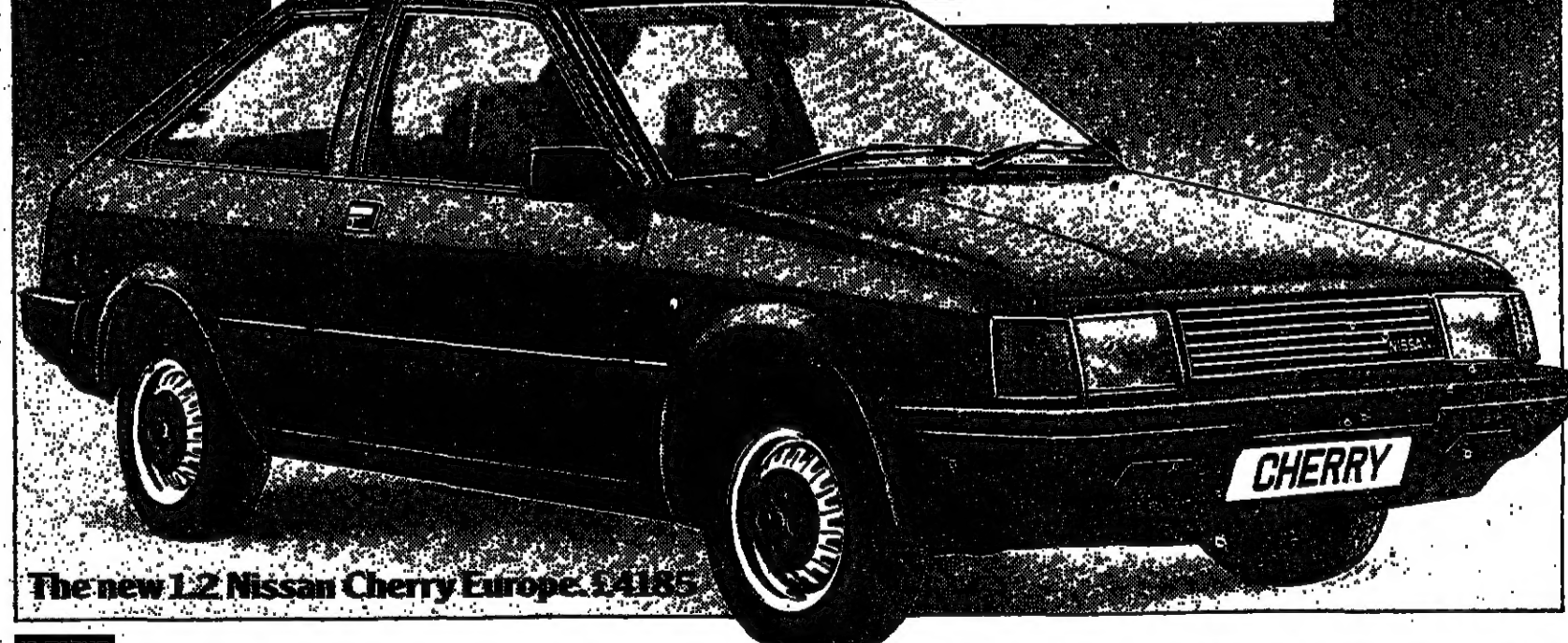
As Interior Minister, and a close associate of Mr Andropov, General Fedorchuk is a key figure in the campaign.

In a long article in *Pravda* yesterday he said that the police who come under his control, had been revitalized and were under firm instructions to track down on "drunkenness, hooliganism, idleness, speculation and the theft of socialist property".

He emphasized that the campaign was aimed as much at high-level corruption as at ordinary offenders, but said much of the burden would fall on local police forces and on civilian auxiliaries (*druzhniki*) who were close to the roots of the problem.

Mr Valentin Makeyev, the head of the trade unions, also supported the draconian measures.

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The new 1.2 Nissan Cherry Europe £4185

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a very powerful twin overhead camshaft twin carb. engine!

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If you need a family car for shopping, school trips, business use etc., there are 1.2 litre and 1.3 litre Cherrys to fit the bill - with three doors or five doors available.

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- CHERRY 1.3 GL 5 DOOR £4790
- CHERRY 1.3 GL AUTO 3 DOOR £4846
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- HEAD RESTRAINTS
- POWER ASSISTED BRAKES
- CIGAR LIGHTER
- SIDE WINDOW DEMISTERS
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- THREE SPEED HEATER FAN
- INTERMITTENT WIPE
- REVERSING LIGHT
- LOCKABLE FUEL FILLER LID
- FITTED CARPETS
- CENTRE CONSOLE
- HINGED LUGGAGE AREA COVER
- DIPPING INTERIOR MIRROR
- PROTECTIVE SIDE MOULDING
- PASSENGER SEAT WALK-IN DEVICE (3 DOOR)

SPECTRUM

Superman of letters

The Times Profile: Sir Angus Wilson, 70 today

A few weeks ago, a little in advance of the actual event, a group of mixed friends – in the hundreds – gathered on a scorching evening at the London Zoo to celebrate Sir Angus Wilson's seventieth birthday. Thunder cracked, the animals were restless; torrential rain came down, and we were forced inside. They had been location-filming here for the television serialisation of *The Old Men at the Zoo*, due shortly, and a camera crew toured the hot members' room.

It was hard to know which one of his books we were being put into. The old and young men and women at the zoo looked momentarily uneasy, disturbed less by the thought that the electric air might trigger off the apocalyptic events of his darkest novel than by the realization that Wilson's particular zoological speciality was dodos, the social dodos who neglect to see how the world round them has changed. We hoped we had not been collected here for that.

Silvery, small and actorish, Sir Angus, in bright and occasionally acid good form, greeted his guests in his high sharp voice: Members of Parliament, publishers, actors, academics, government scientists, museum and zoo people, literary hostesses, fellow-Dickensians, gay couples, social people and people not so social, eminent persons of letters, young to middle-aged writers, a good number of whom he had taught or otherwise generously helped, literary editors whose columns had not always been warm to his more recent fiction, some of it among his best.

A recent literary row hovered, as on such occasions it often does. In the British way, Wilson's books have always shown an edgy but lovingly engaged relation to society, power and place. His own first novel, *Hemlock and After*, is about the writer as licensed jester; his own malicious comedy has always been that of the eminently social writer who does not quite like what he writes about. This could have been a gathering from any one of his socially populous novels, busy with parties, frequently disastrous, as social conflict or moral truth floods in.

There was no disaster. Indeed so various and warm was the company that one suddenly realized that no other major British writer could possibly have summoned either it or its mood. The phrase "man of letters" is in terminal exhaustion, but Wilson has been it, in a curiously generous and open form.

No British writer today of his distinction has been this humanly busy, working in writing's and the writer's interest serving as president of the Royal Society of Literature, working with the Arts Council and for the British Council (no foreign lecture tour ends without a dinner at which Angus Wilson remembrances are served), researching, writing outstanding literary criticism as well as fiction, reviewing to the highest standards, goading, flattering, pleasing, teasing; but also teaching everywhere, reading piles of unsolicited manuscripts,

fighting for public lending right, liking and helping the young, never easy, and drawing, in a still only half-cultured country, not generous to writers and slow to grant much to new talent, a spirit of literary possibility around him.

Not only his kindness but his acid matters. It is hard to be a 70-year-old *enfant terrible*, but Wilson has managed it, and is rightly loved for it.

It was difficult then, as today, the real birthday, to measure him at 70, not just because all the activity and vivacity goes on, but because he began writing late, in his mid-thirties, as therapy for a breakdown, so the decades his writing covers are really the last three. We can date his start very clearly, because he can fairly be called the founding figure of postwar British fiction, after the fracture of the War.

It was in the later 1940s in *Horizon* that the short stories that would make up *Such Darling Dodos* and *The Wrong Set* began appearing, catching with comic malice the mood of social change and the feelings of class dispossession that came with the rise of the welfare state, which he celebrated for its freedoms, castigated for its bureaucracy.

A publisher's rule runs that writers' careers cannot start with short stories, but his success was immediate. Early success can be disabling, and make hard the development of a real oeuvre. But, shaped as his career has been by it, Wilson's subsequent novels dominated the fictional reawakening of the 1950s. *Hemlock and After*, quickly written when he was still Deputy to the Superintendent of the British Museum Reading Room, about a liberal humanist writer who takes on the establishment, but then discovers moral insufficiency in his own heart, started off the 1950s and – with its moral anxieties, its fears of liberal exhaustion and sense of psychic anarchy – caught much of its tone.

The word at the time was that the spirit of modernist experiment which had reshaped the novel in the 1920s and 1930s was over. There was a Great Tradition available, and novelists were being called back to the tradition of social realism the British had for so long been good at. Wilson half agreed, and half did not: there has been a considerable mind-change since, particularly about his now greatly admired *Virginia Woolf*.

There is quite a lot of Forster in *Hemlock*, and some of Dickens, the great writer of grotesquerie, mimicry and social cunning with whom Wilson has most identified, and written brilliantly about. The blacking-factory child who loved children, knew the presence of evil, and had a wild imagination of freedom had some match in Wilson's own experience.

He was the spoiled youngest son of an elderly parents caught on the social slide, a hotel child forced to sing for his supper, perform for approval, exploit his gifts for mimicry and comedy. If his fiction has the moral imagination of a George Eliot, it has always had wilder and freer imaginings too, and a strong sense of society not as a value but a form of impersonation.



Sir Angus Wilson
born August 11, 1913, educated Westminster School, Merton College, Oxford



1942-46 Foreign Office
1946 began to write
1949-55 Deputy to Superintendent of Reading Room, British Museum
1956-78 Professor of English Literature, now Emeritus
His writing
1949 *The Wrong Set*
1950 *Such Darling Dodos*, *Emile Zola*
1952 *Hemlock and After*
1953 *For Whom The Cloche Tolls* (2nd edition 1973)
1955 *The Mulberry Bush* (play)
1956 *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*
1957 *A Bit Off the Map*
1958 *The Middle Age of Mrs Eliot*
1961 *The Old Men at the Zoo*
1962 *The Wild Garden*
1964 *Late Call*
1967 *No Laughing Matter*
1970 *The World of Charles Dickens*
1971 *England* (with Edwin Smith and Olive Cook)
1973 *As if By Magic*
1976 *The Naughty Nineties*
1977 *The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling*
1980 *Setting the World On Fire*
1982 *East Anglia in Verse* (with Tony Garrett)

His novels of the 1950s grew more and more socially panoramic, fed by his Oxford historian's training but also by a cunningly acute imagination. *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes* is his best title, taken from Lewis Carroll; he was always devastating at catching the British in their favourite attitude, the moral one.

The critics were calling for the incorporative, contemporary social novel, and Wilson provided it; they happily pleased the general reader too, perhaps especially because of their extraordinary, sympathetic portraits of women, like the remarkable, enduring Sylvia Calvert in his New Town novel *Late Call*.

But it has always seemed to me that Wilson's most heroic move was to transform the spirit of his fiction in the 1960s, risking his secure audience. *The Middle Age of Mrs Eliot*, one of his

finest books, suggests the change: Meg Eliot is a great reader, finding solace in the nineteenth-century novel and its social and moral radiation. But the accidental death of her husband in a very modern terrorist incident forces her into the problems of constructing a significant contemporary life; the old books are no longer true.

Wilson's most courageous novels are *No Laughing Matter*, which parodies and undercuts the kind of social novel the British are prone to, and which his own fiction was often read as, and *As if By Magic*, notable not just for his fictional declaration of homosexuality but for its massive, global subject. In the 1960s the British novel began to challenge itself, and Wilson was now firmly rejecting the tempting provincialism that so easy softens and Hampsteadizes British fiction, and leads it away from scale and curiosity.

Unhappily, not only some of his readers but also some of the critics, who might have seen deeper, failed to support him in what he did, and this has left some bitterness. But, as younger writers have lately been showing us, this widening and internationalizing of British fiction has proved not only a necessary aesthetic and political act, but a reactivation of the novel form. And Wilson's fiction reaches across naturally from the 1950s to the 1980s.

He remains a very social novelist, one for whom the Edwardian wilderness was never quite as charming as we like to recall it, the socialist postwar world slid all too easily into bureaucracy, *realpolitik* and crude materialism, and even internationalism tempts us to benign illusions about our power over the world.

His remarkable book *The Wild Garden*, a digging up of the roots of his own creativity, unlocks the tempestuousness of the literary imagination, which belongs with zoos and wild gardens, and has a lot of the unbidden about it. It is that understanding that gives such strength to his literary biographies, especially those on Dickens and Rudyard Kipling, and to the intimate understanding he can bring to literary reviewing. He has never been a theoretical critic, the temptation nowadays; the edgy relation between current criticism and imaginative writing has annoyed not only him but many another writer.

None the less, in 1963, summoned by Ian Watt to a part-time chair of English at the University of East Anglia, he began teaching, late. Not every one of his colleagues warmed to him; there is some spirit in every English department that prefers dead writers to living. But his students did; he proved, as one knew he would be, a striking and capacious lecturer, widely read and with an extraordinary and unexpectedly various sense of the creative tradition.

Experience in America had taught him to beware of creative writing, but he warmed slowly to it, and many writers came from the university with his help. His imprint there has been a fresh responsiveness to contemporary writing, despite the ending of the direct connexion when he reached retirement age.

But there has been really no retirement. He teaches regularly in America, in Delaware and St Louis, and was just in India for the British Council. His admirers wait to see another novel; there was rage in the title of the last, *Setting the World On Fire*, but we hope it is not exhausted.

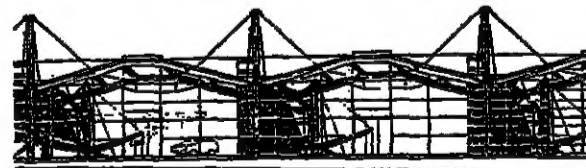
"There was nothing for it, Gladys thought, but to make them laugh..." Wilson wrote in *No Laughing Matter*. "To keep the fun going Gladys stood on her head on the shiny, linoleum floor..." Wilson has always kept the fun going, and stood on his head from time to time to do so.

One danger of British writing has always been, as Wilson himself has said, charm, an over-easy companionableness. More recently he has been a more dangerous and troubling companion for his readers, like all the best writers. The good writer is always a tricky host – which is why, even when going to the London Zoo on a birthday, one always wonders what will happen next.

Malcolm Bradbury

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
ARCHITECTURE



Renault Centre, Swindon, by Foster Associates

out the rain – one method of which was to get the pitch right, the roofing material right and, above all, to have as few things poking through the roof as possible.

Odd therefore to note the influential, high-tech structures, such as Richard Rogers' *Imperial Factory* at Newport, and Norman Foster's *Renault* warehouse at Swindon, which are suspended from masts, like gigantic metal tents. From these masts cables descend, either to the roof, or through it to some structural component within. The roof thus resembles a pin cushion, being peppered with masts and cables penetrating what used to be called an impermeable skin.

These structures fly in the face of conventional wisdom. On the one hand, the architects are celebrated for their intense interest in component design; and the mechanics of sealing moving members poking through roofs are those adapted from applied engineering. Traditionalists mutter that it cannot last: the futurists have no doubt that it will. In the meantime, frost, hail, sleet etc.

Rooflines

In a country with our climate, architectural training on roofs was based on the simple precept of keeping

buildings depend upon the assembly of engineering components, their aesthetic is that of engineering – known as high-tech, in which the rubber floors and metal staircases have definite engineering antecedents. The logical argument behind this approach is the aim to produce as flexible an interior as possible; with as few fixed points (walls etc) and as large a span as possible. The resulting building is then clad in as sleek a way as possible. It is a moral, almost religious approach, with which it is difficult to disagree, although one might question whether it is architecture, in the sense of designed space. However, that logic is now under attack. In the July edition of the *Architectural Review*, that perpetual rebel, Peter Cook, records discussions with one of Britain's most prominent engineers, Frank Newby, a man who has worked on such buildings. Cook records that Newby "considers the whole business to be an Expressionist game, whereby many of the same conditions could be achieved by less flamboyant symbols of engineering"; thus implying that these structures are not the pure requirements of engineering but, heaven forbid, engineering contorted to achieve an architectural effect. Such

Contortions?

The architecture of Foster and Rogers is that derived from the structure and the materials; and since their

heresy, if upheld, would reduce this approach to that of a style, with no more and no less morality than other contemporary styles. We will undoubtedly hear more of this.

Broader base

A major education conference has been organized for this autumn by the Royal Institute of British Architects. Its purpose is to examine the future numbers of the profession and whether the current educational pattern, established after an equally important conference in Oxford in 1958 was still valid. That conference determined to channel all architectural education into full time university training, ending part time training and the class of Licentiate Member. It is now realized that the new system would have prevented Sir Edwin Lutyens, Clough Williams Ellis and Eric Lyons (amongst many others) from being admitted as architects. It also rejected people with a wealth of experience in design and building – such as planners, designers, engineers and those involved in the fine arts, unless they were prepared to undergo the full architectural training of seven years.

The system also rebuffs those who wish to turn to architecture in later life who have already gained experience in building. For such people, a few residual part time courses survive precariously, offering the cold comfort of a 12 year period of suitable applicants to face up to such a marathon. The RIBA conference must therefore consider whether or not the virtually single-entry system to architecture of the last 25 years should be broadened.

Charles McKean

moreover...
Miles Kington

Yes, we have some mañanás

Why is Central America so important to the US?
Because if it wasn't there, there'd be nothing joining North and South America.

Would that make a difference?
Sure. It would mean that Columbus would have sailed straight through the gap and discovered India, as he meant to. The Indians would all be speaking Spanish, the United States of India would be the most powerful country in the world and Delhi would be the headquarters of American football.

Would that be so bad a thing?
Yes. The Indians are far too small for American football.

I see. Meanwhile, why are the Americans so worried about Nicaragua?
Nicaragua represents a terrible threat to the US. The Nicaraguan Navy has encircled the US with its mighty warships, they are infiltrating the US with Mexican "freedom fighters" and now Nicaraguan marines are on "manoeuvres" in nearby Canada. This can only mean one thing.

War?
No, the infiltration of US by thousands if not millions more Spanish-speakers. There are now so many Hispanics in the US that President Reagan starts his speeches with the phrase: "My fellow Americans and illegal immigrants..." The trouble is, only about 50 per cent of the population understands what he says. There are some programmes on public TV that an English-speaking American can understand.

Such as?
Coronation Street, Billy Connolly Live, Minder...

But surely Spanish is a noble and ancient language?
Not the way Hispanics speak it. Their language is a sort of street Spanish.

Is American English proper English?
You bet your sweet booty button.

Why is Nicaragua trying to encircle the USA?
The Nicaraguans are trying to force the Americans to hold free elections. You see, although the American Constitution allows for the election of anyone as President, the position in practice is quite different and presidential office is held only by millionaires who can spend a fortune to get in. They want to get Americans to introduce democracy.

What is the Central American system?
To become elected as President and then become a millionaire.

But surely they all get assassinated or shot at or have to resign?
I think that's the US you're thinking of.

Why is President Reagan sending so many advisers and personnel into Central America?
I believe the intention is to teach the people to speak English so that when they arrive in the States as illegal immigrants, they won't be adding to the language problem.

I don't want to sound pessimistic, but doesn't this all sound like a Vietnam situation?
The only real similarity between Vietnam and Central America is that Dr Kissinger has been put in charge of both. If his previous policy is anything to go by, this means that he will probably end up bombing nearby states, as he did with Laos and Cambodia.

Which states?
California, maybe. Or Texas.

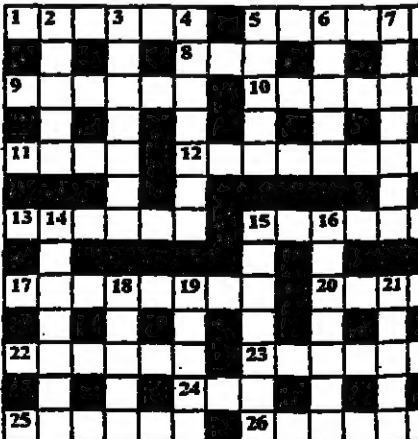
How will this help the situation?
It won't really. But it will give a lot of pleasure to people in New York and Washington.

Are you serious?
No – estoy fuliendo.

How's that?
A bit of street Spanish. Fuliar – to fool around.

Why are you picking up street Spanish?
Well, as with Vietnam, you can never be sure which side is going to win.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 123)



ACROSS
1 Lining (5)
5 Quiver (6)
8 Deviate (3)
9 Try (6)
10 Counsel (6)
11 Barmy warriors (4)
12 Retailer's product (3)
13 Seize (6)
15 Steady quarters (6)
17 Room-to-room phone (8)
20 Tube gas (4)
22 Kidnap (6)
23 Zoroastrian writings (6)
24 Hardy tree (3)
25 Go up (6)
26 Too sentimental (6)

DOWN
2 Oxford charity (5)
3 Elephant tusks (7)
4 Arrive at base (3,4)
6 Wander (5)
7 Formal permission (7)
14 Large coach (7)
15 Delirium tremens (7)
16 Aramasic root (7)
18 Solo composition (5)
19 Quoted (5)
21 Hunted river animal (5)

SOLUTION TO No 122
ACROSS: 1 Rictus 4 Jooze 7 Pier 8 Narrator 9 Buzzword 12 Sex 15 Amnesia 16 Angina 17 Gas 19 Analitide 24 Clearcut 25 Ooze 26 Chance 27 Rhythm
DOWN: 1 Ripe 2 Credulous 3 Sineu 4 Junt 5 Coat 6 Swore 10 Zebra 11 Cased 12 Sunlight 13 Xray 14 Tang 18 Allah 20 Recco 21 Later 22 Gain 23 Seam

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BOOKS

The bombs that missed

The Eye of Intelligence
By Ursula Powys-Lybbe

(William Kimber, £10.50)

A day after war was declared in 1939, that ill-informed and weak Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, declared triumphantly that the R.A.F. had destroyed the German seaplane base at Borkum on Sylt. They had, in fact, dropped all their bombs in Denmark, and the photo-interpreters at Bomber Command said so. Bomber Harris refused to believe their report.

Harris and Co. took a very long time to be persuaded that conventional bombing, based on pre-1939 training, was useless. In late 1940 Douglas Kendall, one of the heroes of this book, and I, dined with Professor Lindemann and told him our disquiet about our bombing. I had been specialising on French ports and knew that Lorient, allegedly devastated by the R.A.F., was

untouched. We had discovered the Lorient decoys nearby. From that moment the reports from the Central Photographic Intelligence Unit at Medmenham got directly to the Prime Minister so that Winston Churchill, whose daughter Sarah was a W.A.A.F. officer at Medmenham, was now fully informed.

I think, perhaps, because I was involved in it, that the lesson, by air photography, of the failure of our bombing in the early years of the war was one of the most important contributions made by photo-intelligence to the successful progress of the war. There were, of course, many, many others and these are set out in this well-written and well-illustrated book.

Many years ago, Constance Babington Smith, herself one of the great Medmenham girls, wrote an account of it all in her book *Evidence in Camera* (1958). A quarter of a century later it is good to have a fresh review, and now we are able to reveal the close relationships between Medmenham and Bletchley, Medmenham, Bletch-

ley and all the rest of them make exciting reading. But Medmenham had a special factor - the pilots who flew those brilliant long sorties to Norway and Denmark. These are the men to be remembered as well as the men and women who peered relentlessly day and night through their stereoscopes. And it was the P.R.U. pilots of whom the Lord Tedder was thinking when, in his preface to *Evidence in Camera* he spoke of the "imagination, devotion and courage whose contribution to the ultimate success of the Allied cause was quite incalculable".

It was, and I always remember them in my prayers. This is a book which must be read by everybody interested in how we won the last war. Where are the photo-interpreters who are going to win the next war - or prevent it happening? They are sitting in their bomb-proof offices in Washington, London and Moscow plotting the sites of the missiles. They will have all the evidence about Russian plans that is in camera.

Glyn Daniel

No matter what sign you are

Astrology in the Renaissance

The Zodiac of Life

By Eugenio Garin

(Routledge and Kegan Paul, £10.95)

The presence of astrologers within our own culture, and the persistence of astrology over many thousands of years (leapfrogging, as it were, Christianity and mechanistic science), must be matters of some interest. Professor Garin does not address them directly, however; in this little book he deals with the Renaissance debate over the status of astrology, and yet his conclusions have relevance beyond that of strictly historical enquiry.

The conventional theory has been that, during the 14th and 15th centuries, divinatory astrology was displaced by speculative astrology, or astronomy - that the prophetic and magical context of the one was by some inherent evolutionary process superseded by the rational and mathematical organization of the other. Professor Garin provides a good deal of evidence to suggest that this was not so, that there was no clear boundary between magic and logic, between mathematics and mythology; and that, in addition, these earlier principles persisted in, and indeed animated, the apparently "modern" concepts of order and predictability. Reason is not to be utterly separated from magic because both depended upon the transformative powers of the human agent: mathematical calculations were derived from the mysticism of numbers; prophetic techniques were re-employed within the scientific notion of predictability. Even the idea of a "Renaissance" itself suggests astrological notions of renovation, of descent and ascent mirrored in the heavens.

Astrology was a powerful form of knowledge because it presented an harmonious order - an idealised hierarchy in which man was a microcosm of the whole and to which the various disciplines of mathematics, medicine, jurisprudence and history could be related. Mechanistic science could only become a serious rival if its own role, as the divider of universal principles, could be equally firmly established - and, to do so, scientists (or rather putative scientists) borrowed from astrology whatever astrology could give them.

Scientific method, then, was simply a form of interpretation which was eventually granted mythic status - and, as soon as it became a myth, it began to perform miracles. That is why the function of science has been at least in part a protective and comforting one - it provides an image of human life, and locates human longings within an apparently "impersonal" order which justifies them. We have only to look at the credence afforded to evolutionary theory in the nineteenth century, or the bland reassurance of systems theory in our own time, to see how closely the scientific model relates to social and political ones. Why is it, though, that astrological practices have survived and flourished? They have of course an aesthetic appeal: the "theatre of the world" and "the world as a work of art" are aphorisms that haunt the artistic imagination. But it has survived as a popular belief, or pastime, because it is uniquely able to satisfy certain half-expressed human instincts - that dark or "primitive" sense of fate or destiny, the promise of death and rebirth, and which cannot quite shake off the illusion that the bright stars above us are torches of knowledge and of desire. The aspirations of the ancient astrologers are still our own, and their motto - "The wise man will dominate the stars" - could easily be adopted for the headquarters of NASA.

Peter Ackroyd

Accidental death of a success

Theatre in my Blood

By John Percival

(Herbert Press, £10.95)

A Rolls-Royce of a biography. Not, let me add quickly, mechanical, or in any sense machine-made, but functioning like a beautifully-designed machine: a model of information, admirably arranged, of authoritative opinions widely canvassed, of personal judgments formed and tested over all the years since Cranko arrived in England in 1946 at the age of 18. It provides the perfect treatment for John Cranko. His life and career require no artificial animation.

Cranko met his accidental death in 1973 on the way back to Stuttgart after another triumphant North American tour. (Mr Percival effectively disposes of the rumours about suicide.) He was 45. He had devoted himself to ballet since he was 16. An unusually perceptive and sympathetic father allowed him to leave his Johannesburg home to study dancing in Cape Town. Within four months of his arrival he had choreographed his first ballet. This was *The Soldier's Tale*, to the Stravinsky score not so, that there was no clear boundary between magic and logic, between mathematics and mythology; and that, in addition, these earlier principles persisted in, and indeed animated, the apparently "modern" concepts of order and predictability. Reason is not to be utterly separated from magic because both depended upon the transformative powers of the human agent: mathematical calculations were derived from the mysticism of numbers; prophetic techniques were re-employed within the scientific notion of predictability. Even the idea of a "Renaissance" itself suggests astrological notions of renovation, of descent and ascent mirrored in the heavens.

How that prophecy came true is naturally the main business of the book. Fortunately Cranko was always articulate. Not only could he envisage the ballet he wished to make; he could get his vision into words. And he really may be said to have had the theatre in his blood. Again and again in the account of his brief South African career one is astounded at his command already of theatrical terms and requirements. His letters to the friend 1,000 miles away who designed his earliest sets and costumes are detailed and explicit. This must be changed, that substituted, some other effect will have to be modified or discarded. It seems impossible that a boy of 17 is writing.

Cranko

All his professional life he kept this gift of self-expression. At its most extended it is seen in the long scenario for a *Tristan* ballet for which, he hoped, Hans Werner Henze would compose the music. That was in 1973, a few months before he died - making suicide still more unlikely.

The whole idea of suicide arises from the fact that Cranko was homosexual, and from the knowledge that homosexuals, so ironically, labelled "gay", are often inclined to be miserable at their failure to secure a permanent partner. But Cranko's bouts of intense depression in later life, Mr Percival believes, would have occurred even if he had been heterosexual. Mr Percival's treatment of the whole subject demonstrates the quality of this biography. For him it is an element in the story to be weighed just like any other element. There is no false emphasis, no mistaken attempt to get cheap effects. Cranko's friends, lovers, colleagues merely meet together, as it were, to say what kind of a man he was, and then we return to the real subject - what kind of an artist he was.

Contrary to an old sentimental notion, artists are as a rule pre-eminently practical. Witness Cranko's forgetting some of his own choreography when reviving a work and proceeding to improvise. So much for the innocent belief in the unique, complete, unalterable work of art. (Mine was shattered many years ago when I happened on Henry Moore providing a damaged work of his with an entirely different nose.) Cranko had above all that enviable ability to be perpetually stimulated by difficulties, not deterred less by lesser men: what someone has called the energy to be a success.

Not the least interesting chapter is that devoted to Cranko's family background and a description of the artistic scene in Cape Town towards the end of the last war which will astonish anyone who knew the city a few years earlier.

Jan Stephens



Cranko

Shiloh and Other Stories

By Bobbie Ann Mason

(Chatto & Windus/Hogarth Press, £7.95)

In Constant Flight

By Elizabeth Tallent

(Chatto & Windus/Hogarth Press, £7.95; paperback £3.95)

Communications now are like the Impressionists used to be - experiments in changing our perceptions. In the old days, what I read, I might compare to a Seurat or Cezanne, efforts to make a picture from brilliant dots or blocks of paint. Now what I read seems to be information gathering, efforts to make a coherence from stray facts and observations in the way we hear and see now.

Shiloh and Other Stories by Bobbie Ann Mason was like a Seurat and now is a data bank.

From *pointillisme* to print-out. Her persons are a collection of their actions and characteristics. They are what they do and appear to be. They consist of their ingredients without motive or explanation. Yet in each story, something significant happens, so that this slice of life may be sliced another way in the future. It is like finding the silver splendour every time in each piece of Christmas pudding. As one of Bobbie Ann Mason's characters says of something he has made, "It didn't cost anything. Just imagination."

The stories are, however, very good to read, the details and singularities exact, the sentences of Kentucky microscopical, the patterns of speech woven fine and clear. Yet too much information is conveyed as in a photograph or on a tape. It is an art of selection and recording, not of memory and forgetting.

Elizabeth Tallent has a similar scrupulousness and



Bourke-White in India in 1946 - spinning the way Gandhi taught her.

Glamorous, hard-nosed enigma

The Life of Margaret Bourke-White

By Jonathan Silverman

(preface by Alfred Eisenstaedt (Secker and Warburg, £25)

Her métier was poking a lens into everyone's business: while the pictures she took for *Life* magazine during the Second World War made her famous, her unashamed support for Soviet communism aroused intense suspicion. Margaret Bourke-White was a glamorous enigma, a hard-nosed entrepreneur who made a fortune from photographing steel plants in America. She pursued her interest in the aesthetic of the machine age during Soviet-sponsored visits to Russia (1930-32). She photographed Stalin: he was annoyed to find that she was taller than him. Abandoning commercial photography because of its "falsifying and distorting character" she approved of the status of "artist and prophet" afforded her by the Russians.

She had a faultless instinct for being in the

right place at the right time: she was with General Patton on entering Buchenwald and was photographing ruins at the First National Bank on the evening of the Wall Street Crash. Gandhi chatted to her minutes before he was assassinated (her part in the film *Gandhi* was played by Candice Bergen.) She was the first woman to fly on a bombing mission in Europe. Paradoxically while both *Life* and the Pentagon eagerly snapped up her war pictures she was simultaneously under investigation by the FBI for "un-American" activities. She sent a pro forma denial to the House Committee, but the stigma remained. Her photographs were generous and compassionate while her politics were naive. ("What time do you eat in Russia?" she asked her Moscow guide in 1930. "When we have food.") At the zenith a single issue of *Life* might be read by 24 million people, but television killed off the single news image after 1952, the year she learned that Parkinson's disease had begun its inexorable progress. A career of contradictions, but the author skillfully interweaves both the life and the pictures.

Rory Coonan

Concrete nonconformist

A Stranger and Afraid

The Autobiography of an Intellectual

By G. S. Fraser

(Carcanet New Press, £8.95)

George Fraser, author and teacher, who died three years ago at the age of 64, always struck me as very much of the modern artist and intellectual; and I am trying to give a reasonably full answer to the question, how did I get to be that way?

I cannot say that I find the book satisfactory in fulfilling this ambition, but then if it did fulfil it surely the result would be supremely dull. The picture that emerges from these pages is not some identikit of a typical "modern artist and intellectual". Instead, wars and all, we are given a portrait of a gently idiosyncratic individual at different stages in his development - the schoolboy Fraser, a bit priggish, gawky in the company of girls, stumbling his way into verse since he felt so tongue-tied; Fraser as son and as brother, his plain affection for his parents and his sister being particularly luminous; Fraser as a junior reporter on an Aberdeen newspaper, nervous with the people he had to interview, sloping off into the reading room of the public library to soothe myself with ten pages about formal logic or the history of English metrics; Fraser, called up, awkward in the

self-analysis, but pecked with vivid portraits of other people. Fraser declares at the start, however, that he has a purpose beyond mere remembrance. "I choose myself as a peg to hang the story on," he writes, "not so much because I think I am interesting as because I think I am, in a way, rather ordinary. I am taking myself as a reasonable random sample of the modern artist and intellectual; and I am trying to give a reasonably full answer to the question, how did I get to be that way?"

One of those poems, an elegy for a friend of his who was headmaster of a preparatory school in Cairo, concludes with four lines which I would like to quote, not because they are great verse, but because they seem to me to be a (pleasantly unintentional) definition and description of George Fraser himself: A kind, a careless, and a generous. An unself-seeking in his love of art. A jolly in his great explosive fuss. O plethora of roses, O great heart!

Robert Nye

Fiction

Unreal fragments for the imagined data bank

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taise. She also accumulates details and counterpoints conversations. Metaphors and explanations are rare in her stories of relationships in *Constant Flight*. Her better pieces are called "Refugees and Keats". In the first, two American refugees from marriage and living alone take in a true African refugee called Zinbanti; at the end in an airport, one escapee will leave the other for Zinbanti, arriving on his flight. In the second story, a runaway wife wants her husband's Dalmatian Keats; they talk over telephones which make the chaos and disasters of their lives hardly relevant. Nothing engages. All is a series of facts and facts and conversations without consequence.

Both of these authors are published by *The New Yorker* with its preferred style of quaint and telling reportage, now the strongest influence on the short story in America. The major influence on the novel, however, has come from the well-made Hollywood screenplay.

Justin Cartwright's story of South Africa, *Freedom for the Wolves* (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95), uses the devices of cross-cutting action sequences that date from *The Birth of a Nation*. His opening on a farm in the bush, where a police raid discovers a wealthy young man having an affair with a Zulu girl, and his ending in the Sharpeville massacre, where the girl dies in her lover's arms, are cinematic. So is the long flashback to the young man's grandfather's experience as a soldier in South Africa, a power in business, a Randlord on the gold reef, and finally a philosopher of enlightened capitalism. Justin Cartwright knows his native land, writes with economy and strength, and tells a family story of the generations losing their certainty and their way. The Africans remain impenetrable and unachieved, a people waiting for their subcontinent, which they will run without explanation once they have the control.

Bernard Lentriche is a professional screenwriter, and *Deuces Wild* (Collins, £7.95) is his first novel. He was also the best poker player in France, "perhaps the best in the world" by his own confession "for a few minutes." The novel deals with the best poker player in the world, Benedict Sarkissian, an Armenian dedicated to humiliate and break the richest Turk in America as a revenge for the slaughtering of the Armenians at the end of the First World War. Against a background of degenerate high living, Sarkissian achieves his aim and the Turk's mistress and two daughters. As a description of the mentality of the perfect poker player, the novel is enthralling. As a novel, it is efficient, ruthless, corrupt, slightly absurd, and most readable. Manipulated by such expert hands, we may only wait to see on the screen what we read on the page. But no perception is necessary or changed.

Andrew Sinclair

John Higgins on new wine books

Tingling buds

One or two of the first growth clarets have collected admiring books to themselves, but Chateau Londeenne is probably the first *crubourgeois* to achieve that distinction. Londeenne is in the unfashionable Bas-Médoc and there is no pretending that drawing a cork on its bottle sets the taste buds a-tingling in anticipation as it would in the case of Petrus, say, or Latour. But it has been making good dependable wine, and sometimes better than that, both red and white, for a century now. And, by jingo, it is British.

And that is the point of Nicholas Faith's book, *Vineyard Vineyard*. Chateau Londeenne and the Gibbeys (*Constable*, £9.95). The Gibbeys were aggressive merchants, who travelled far and uncomfortably to find their wine, whether it was Marsala from Sicily or bulk supplies from South Africa, to feed the chemist's shop and boost grandma's red corpuscles. They bought cheap and they sold cheap. They were popularisers and to some extent, as Mr Faith remarks, they were the Thos. Cook of the wine business. That leaves aside the brokerage and distilling business.

Not long ago I saw carefully typed at the bottom of a Sri Lankan wine list: "Every Gin sold on premises made by Gibbeys. Gibbeys also Gibbeys knew how to sell themselves and the Roundhouse in Camden Town remains as a monument to their empire because it was part of their storage complex before its later life, recently ended, as a theatre. The Gibbeys bought Londeenne in 1875, not a propitious time as phylloxera was shortly to follow. The war waged against this plague forms one of the best chapters. But Nicholas Faith's real concern is with the family rather than the vineyard and his tale of buccannery, excellently illustrated, is the best of the summer crop of wine books.

Marc and Kim Milon's *The Wine Roads of Europe* (Nicholson, £4.95) is a follow up to

Anthony Hogg's *Guide to Visiting Vineyards* (Michael Joseph). Both tell you where to go, when you can taste and on what terms. The Milons add in a good deal of additional information on neighbouring hotels and restaurants, which as far as France is concerned does not diverge much from what is in the Michelin and Gault Millau guides, although it is all neatly and logically arranged. Outside France, which takes up almost half the book, the Milons become a little stargazed. Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert came to Vienna, they may be surprised to know, to drink *Heurige* and to work, "in that order. And the Burgenland, east of the Austrian capital, turns out to be "a strange and exotic region," so exotic indeed that you are likely to encounter tourists from Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Meeting mosquitoes and campers from the industrial Ruhr is even more probable.

Still, the Milon's book is just worth a place in the car locker. And should you on the way be unsure of your terminology there is a reissue of André Simon's *Dictionary of Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs* (Hutchinson, £9.95). You can move directly from NUSSDORF (i.e. Nutsville) "Village nr. Vienna famous for Heurige wines" to NUTTY "A flavour reminiscent of . . ." It all depends on what you want, and need, to know.

Faber are in the process of reissuing their series on wine, under the general editorship of Julian Jeffs. In paperback at prices between £4.95 and £5.95. Germany, Italy and the Rhone are among the present batch. The writing is variable, but the scholarship and judgement is almost always sound, although in his German volume Frank Schoonmaker is unnecessarily dismissive of the wines of Franconia, which will be providing plenty of solace to pilgrims to Bayreuth this month. And together with the Baden whites they are among the few German wines that go well with food.

Shrewd ecclesiast

Hensley Henson

By Owen Chadwick

(Oxford, £18.50)

Nobody in England is better equipped to write "a study in the friction between Church and State" than Professor Owen Chadwick, Chairman of the last Archbishop's Commission on Church and State, he may justly be regarded as the consultant architect of the present "settlement".

No substantial biography of Henson could be written which did not confront many of the major problems facing the English Churches earlier in the century, but often still facing them today - divorce; individualism and socialism; the division between the Church and the working man; what to do with dictators - for few people were more concerned than Henson that those problems should be squarely faced.

Hensley Henson bids fair to be the best ecclesiastical biography of the century - G. M.

Trevelyan accorded that accolade to Charles Smyth's biography of Cyril Garbett, Archbishop of York - because Owen Chadwick has written a work which in style, subtlety of perception and breadth of content, matches the magnitude and complexity of the man of whom he writes.

The achievement is the greater, because Henson in retirement had written a three-volume autobiography, *Retrospect of an Unimportant Life*, deservedly well received for its English, its shrewd judgement of events, its causticity and its indiscretions. It is fundamental to Professor Chadwick's study that the *Retrospect* was "an exercise in the concealment of self". He writes: "A memoir was needed precisely because he did not write a true biography. He only gave the world the impression that he did." There is therefore at the heart of Hensley Henson an unsolved mystery, an enigma.

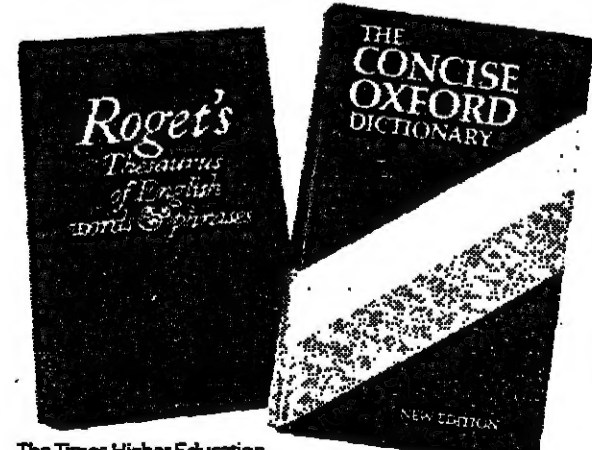
Eric James

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Ronald Butt

THE TIMES DIARY

Training Pym

The British Railways Board, living in dread of the imminent arrival of Sir John King or some railroading equivalent to follow Sir Peter Parker as chairman, is making urgent signals. They are to indicate that the Board would be very happy to see Francis Pym shunted their way. Parker finally goes back to the sheds in less than a month (offers of alternative employment gratefully received). Those who work with him remember that Parker worked in harness with his predecessor, Richard Marsh, for six months before taking the strain himself, yet still there is no word as to who his successor will be. Pym, they say, has all the qualities... but somehow I doubt his pulling power. Terence Higgins, chairman of the backbench transport committee and a former Olympic athlete, looks a more convincing runner.

All about Eva

If you want Martin Bormann's telephone number, or a nude photo of Eva Braun's sister, you should be in New York today. The Charles Hamilton Galleries are auctioning a wide variety of Nazi memorabilia at the New York Sheraton. The piece de resistance is Eva Braun's pocket diary for 1944, with her engagements noted and telephone numbers for her friends in the Hitler gang. The bottom has rather fallen out of the market in Nazi diaries of late, and this one is expected to fetch no more than \$1,000.

My notes about the announcements on InterCity trains have prompted several reports of a guard on trains from King's Cross who concludes his resume of the train's destination and amenities with the sombre blessing: "May God go with you all this day and grant you a safe journey."

No-hit parade

O Tannenbaum (The Red Flag to you, comrade) will not be acceptable as an entry for the Greater London Council's song-of-the-year competition, for which it is offering £1,000 of our money as first prize. The object is an original composition "backing the cause of peace" to be released as a record by County Hall in the autumn and later performed at a public concert. The GLC is obviously aiming for the Top Twenty since entries are to be no longer than three minutes each.

Kind spirit

Psychic Press sends a complimentary slip so charming as to be otherworldly: "The small courtesies which make life pleasant tend to be forgotten in these days of speed and bustle. Please forgive us for not sending a letter because of extreme pressure. Nevertheless we appreciate hearing from you. That is what I would call a happy medium."

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm carrying five hundred pounds in this race. How about you?"

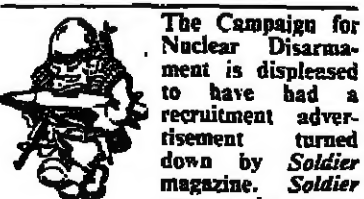
Topsy-turvy

A sculptor from north Wales has effected a sod-swap as his contribution to an Arts Council sculpture exhibition opening at the Hayward and Serpentine galleries today. David Nash brought enough 31-square turves from his field in Blaenau Ffestiniog to make a river of turf about 50ft in diameter at the Serpentine. The Hyde Park turves removed in the process are to take their place in Wales. The idea is to demonstrate how much nicer their old sod is than our old sod.

Recently returned from working in Saudi Arabia, Arthur Perry tells me it is a written rule of the Saudi Bus Company that: "Eating of the driver is forbidden while the vehicle is in operation. The rule is well observed. He did not see a single driver consumed during his stay."

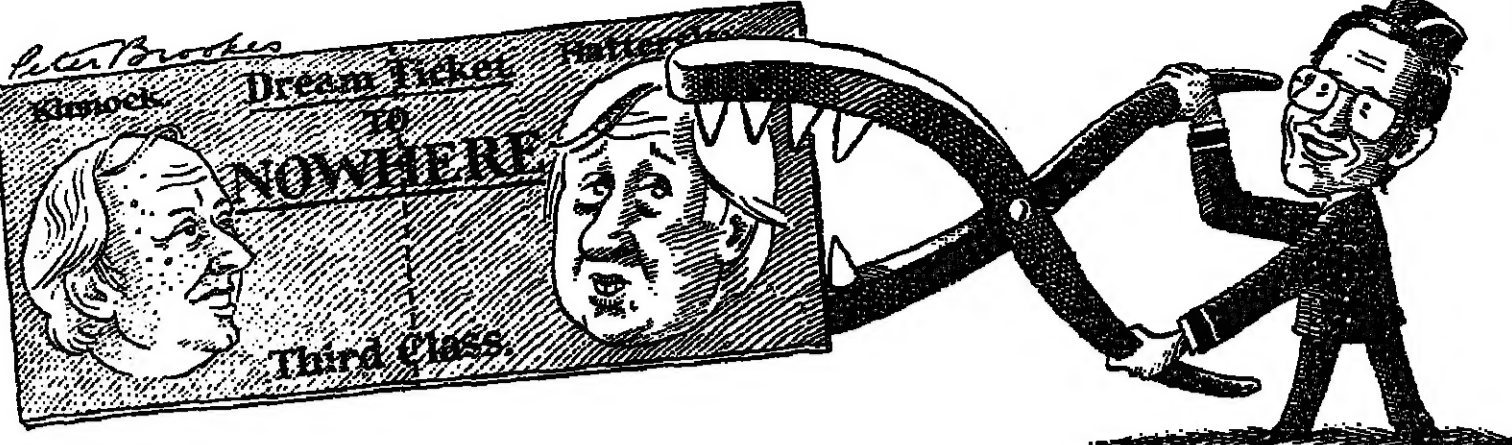
Prose pros

The latest news from the gobbledook front is that Britain's largest translation company, Technical Translation International, received a call inquiring whether they translated English. "Of course," TTI replied. "Into which language?" "Into English," the client replied. Unable to make any sense of the lease purchase agreement on his new car, he had decided to call in professional help.



The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is displeased to have had a recruitment advertisement turned down by Soldier magazine. Soldier gave its reason for its status as a "non-political family publication". This makes CND wonder about the chances of being shown here. He comes from and in the current Soldier and adorns a sweatshirt offered for sale with the slogan "Peace through... Superior Firepower".

PHS



More like a nightmare ticket

by Alan Sapper

Michael Meacher must be delighted. The press has temporarily taken time off from its gradual build-up of the celebrated Kinnoch-Hattersley "dream ticket" and has decided to attack him directly. No doubt we are embarked on a whole summer series of leaks and rumours about how many MPs will defect from the Labour Party if Michael Meacher is elected deputy leader and the anticipated nonsense about how dangerous he is. For it's always a sure sign that your opponents are getting worried when they turn on you personally.

But the press always did have problems with its "dream ticket" and the idea of a "balanced leadership" for it knew that the Labour Party had tried it out before, and failed dismally in the process.

Since June 12, the day Clive Jenkins spilled the beans about Michael Foot's retirement, the newspapers have peddled the idea that if leader and deputy came from opposite ends of the party, policy pronouncements would emerge somewhere about the middle. But they knew that history was not on their side. For through the various Wilson-Brown, Wilson-Jenkins, Callaghan-Foot and Foot-Healey combinations which they have reported, their columns have been replete with examples showing that when the politics of leader and deputy are different, just at the time the party needs the maximum unity, they

become rivals and almost alternative leaders.

The most recent example of the "balanced leadership" coming apart at the seams was, of course, during the election campaign over defence policy. Just when party members knew we had a potential vote-winner if we could expose the Tories' blatant warmongering, we got completely sidetracked because leader and deputy were placing different interpretations on what we would do with Polaris. Things got so bad that at national level we hardly dared mention defence during the rest of the campaign.

It was the same with the National Economic Assessment, part of Labour's "Plan for Jobs" and our alternative economic strategy. During the campaign we allowed ourselves to get diverted into whether this meant an incomes policy or not.

It would be better all round if we had a leadership team in line with what Labour Party members actually feel, and especially in tune with the way they express their views once a year at the annual conference. For how can our membership take heart in our current difficulties if they know their little point in trooping off to Blackpool or Brighton once a year and passing good composite resolutions that no one will carry out.

Whatever one's view of Michael Meacher, no one can deny that in all he has said and written he has stressed that the party must fight and campaign as a unified whole, if we are to get our message across.

Most of the evidence now available about Labour's poor showing in the general election is not that people rejected our policies, but that they hardly understood what they were. There has even been a recent opinion poll with a good majority for increased taxation to be spent on improving social services. What put the voters off most was their blurred image of Labour as a divided party - which is just what the proposed "balanced leadership" would perpetuate.

It would surely be worst of all in the Commons where we need to speak with the loudest and clearest voice. If Kinnoch found himself with a deputy and several Shadow Cabinet members who constantly argued against him, the press would only continue with its tales of Labour's splits.

All the evidence is that the new leader will have his work cut out without having to look over his shoulder to see what his deputy and Shadow Cabinet are up to. What the party needs most is a leader who carries out the policies - and when he does, a deputy who backs him to the hilt.

The author is general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians.

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Lebanon: why the Syrians are there to stay

Damascus Last Sunday evening, President Assad of Syria ordered one of the functionaries at his four-storey residential "palace" near the centre of Damascus to unfurl a huge map before a group of West German diplomats and visiting politicians. The map showed not just Syria but Lebanon and the North of Israel. Then, to the astonishment of the Germans, President Assad got down on his knees, and, brandishing a ruler, began to point out how Israel could attack Syria if the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement were put into practice.

He was quite specific. If Israel wanted to make trouble for Syria in the future, it would send its armies back into Lebanon. If the Lebanese objected to this through the newly-embellished Lebanese-Israeli Joint Liaison Committee, the President went on, the US, with the casting vote in the committee, would let Israel attack Syria from Lebanese territory. The President's ruler began to sweep across the map, from the Bekaa Valley over the Syrian frontier towards Hama, from northern Lebanon up to the city of Hama. Syria, he announced, was better off with the Israelis staying where they were in Lebanon than living under the "threat" of the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement.

Less than an hour earlier, President Assad had been talking to Robert McFarlane, the man who replaced Philip Habib as President Reagan's plenipotentiary in the Middle East. McFarlane had received basically the same lecture from the Syrian leader. The Lebanese withdrawal pact was not just an infringement of Lebanon's "Arab" sovereignty, it was part of a conspiracy against Syria. Besides, how could the US-Israeli strongest ally - pose as an honest broker in the Middle East conflict? Assad made these points and asks that question of his foreign visitors almost every day, telling them how Mr Habib "double-crossed" Syria and broke the last shreds of Syrian confidence in America's word.

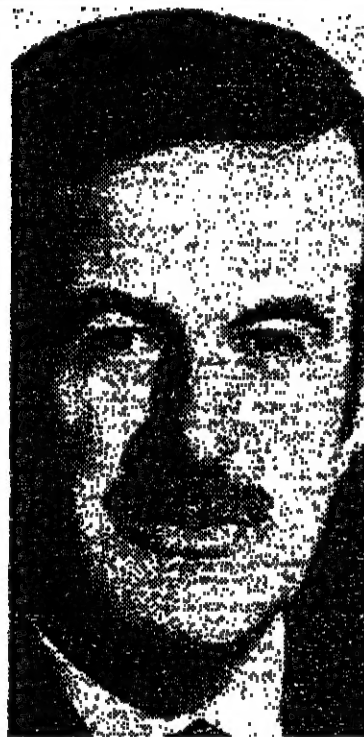
The president is quite specific about this, too. Mr Habib, he tells western ambassadors in Damascus, negotiated a ceasefire between

Syrian and Israeli troops in Lebanon on June 10 last year. The truce, which came into effect the next day, was - according to the Syrians - made on condition that "there was to be a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon as soon as the ceasefire was implemented." Assad claims he has a document drawn up by Mr Habib to prove this - the Americans deny there was any such document and rather unconvincedly put the confusion down to a "misunderstanding" - but the June 11 ceasefire sealed Mr Habib's fate as a peace-maker.

In a sense, therefore, Mr Habib's "retirement" and Mr McFarlane's appointment in his place is a victory for Syria. American acknowledgement of President Assad's objections has thus produced a slightly softer though fundamentally still unchanged political approach from Syria. That policy - dangerous though pragmatic, cynical as well as ruthless - is that by sitting tight in Lebanon, Syria can do itself no harm. It can threaten US prestige in the Middle East by undermining President Gemayel's government in Beirut and it can upgrade its air defence system at the Soviet Union's expense.

Mr McFarlane may suggest an Israeli-Syrian disengagement in the Bekaa Valley but there is no particular reason for Syria to consider the matter. It is Israel's army that is bleeding in Lebanon and such casualties as Syria may take do not affect the body politic of its police state.

The irony of it all is that Syria's intransigence - by sleight of hand, which it calls "steadfastness" - is producing within the US Administration an increasing suspicion that Syria is merely a tool of Soviet expansionism. The Israelis, of course, encourage this idea. If Moscow is trying to rule the Middle East through Damascus, the sooner Syria is brought to its knees the better. But one of the issues which American diplomats in Damascus are constantly trying to bring home to the State Department - and even more so, the National Security Council - is that Syria is not a satellite of the Soviet Union and that common interest rather than



Assad: Reagan will have to start dealing with him

conspiracy or domination governs its refusal to deal with the US.

Nothing could have illustrated this more vividly than the conflict within the Palestine Liberation Organization. Moscow has long regarded its relationship with the PLO as one of its principal assets in the Middle East. While supposedly revolutionary Arab republics have drifted away from Soviet influence, the region's only serious revolutionary movement has stayed loyal to Moscow. So the Soviet leadership was deeply angered when Syria supported the mutiny against Yasser Arafat. Yuri Andropov himself tried to intercede on Arafat's behalf, writing two personal letters to the PLO leader and - so it is believed in Damascus - at least one to President Assad.

Assad was unmoved. When Arafat was evacuated from Beirut last summer, the PLO chief went not to Syria but to Tunis, and Assad never forgave him for the insult. "Tunis is a beautiful city," Assad sarcastically told a foreign diplomat recently. "So Arafat preferred beauty to the country which supported him."

The Syrian leader's dislike of Arafat is personal. He finds Arafat's habit of planting fraternal kisses on the cheeks of Arab potentates distasteful and when Assad speaks of the PLO leader he becomes agitated, clenching and unclenching his fists as he speaks. "A chameleon," he

called Arafat the other day. "When Arafat is in Tunis, he is a Tunisian," Assad said. "When he is in Sweden, he is Swedish. When he is in Saudi Arabia, he becomes a Saudi. He says what they want to hear." It took Meuschaem Begin's army two and a half months to evict Arafat from Beirut; it took just two and a half hours for Assad to evict Arafat from Damascus - and the Syrians assume that this point has been duly noted in Tel Aviv.

Such examples, however, also demonstrate the common interest of Syria and Israel. If Syria is happy to use the PLO against Israel - which, of course, it is - it also believes in carefully controlling the forces of revolution should they be approaching some kind of victory. Israel cannot tolerate the idea of a revolutionary Palestinian state on her borders; but could Syria? When the Palestinians were about to take over all of Lebanon in 1976, Syria's army moved into Lebanon to stop them.

There is, too, something curiously pro-American about Syria. Its army is equipped by the Soviet Union, its officers trained by Moscow, the nation supported by a treaty of friendship with the Soviets. Yet the east European communist system has grafted badly on to a country which still values capitalism, private enterprise and western culture and style. The most popular films on Syrian television are American westerns: Assad's henchmen pack the strip clubs and seedy discotheques of Damascus. There is a popular theory, too, that deep-down, every Syrian would like to be an American baseball star.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Syrian state is brutally cruel to its opponents. No one chooses to think about what happens in the concrete basements of the secret service headquarters, a long, strangely inverted building designed by the East Germans not far from the railway tracks to Deraa. Nor does anyone doubt the savagery visited upon the citizens of Hama - both the armed insurgents and those who were suspected of sympathizing with them - by the Special Forces of President Assad's brother Rifaat.

Yet in some ways, Syria is not unlike the sort of dictatorships with which the US has chosen to deal with - indeed support - in Latin America and South-East Asia. And that is why Syria's America is assuredly going to have to do. Syria believes there are common interests to be discovered with the US. If the discovery takes a long and bloody time, Syria will probably not be unduly worried. Mr McFarlane is just beginning to find this out.

Robert Fisk

Shading over the heatwave figures

The record-breaking temperatures have been a boon to headline writers. For them there is little more satisfying than to state that it has been the hottest summer for 300 years. Records are the stuff of meteorological journalism, but can it really be that we have not had hotter weather in the past?

The problem with weather statistics is that in defining extremes it is essential to compare like with like. In the British Isles, surrounded by cool seas which moderate temperatures in both winter and summer, we expect certain limits. Over the years there will be rare instances when the weather approaches these limits and nudges the records higher, but the advances will be small and precision is needed.

The extremes of summer heat that attract most attention are the highest temperature on the hottest day and how a current heatwave compares with those of the past. For differing reasons both cause considerable difficulties when it comes to making comparisons with long-standing records.

Weathermen are scrupulous about measuring the "shade" temperature, specifying the siting conditions for making measurements so that bright

sunshine does not give misleadingly high readings.

Very hot weather often exposes the limitations of many observations. For this reason, only accredited records for about the last 100 years can be used when comparing individual readings.

The highest temperatures typically are registered in calm anticyclonic conditions with hot dry air wafting gently in from the Continent. What the records show is that the limit for southern England is about 100°F. The off-quoted record of 100.5°F observed at Tunbridge Wells on July 22, 1868 is now viewed with considerable suspicion and it is generally accepted that the hottest day for which reliable records exist was August 9, 1911 when a number of stations recorded figures of 97 and 98°F. Almost as hot was August 19, 1932 and a number of days during the heatwave of late June and early July 1976 when figures of 95 and 96°F were recorded.

When it comes to comparing hot spells a greater breadth of observations can be used. The scholarship of the late Professor Gordon Manley is widely quoted for temperatures of rural central England.

His work provides average monthly temperatures from 1659 on-

wards and allows comparisons to be made with reasonable assurance back to the mid-eighteenth century, and some broad conclusions to be drawn from the earlier figures. In this monthly series of temperatures, July 1983 has squeezed ahead of all previous hot months, passing the hot Augusts of 1975 and 1947 and taking the crown from July 1783.

But hot spells do not normally fall conveniently into calendar months. When the extremes of this July are compared with other memorable heatwaves they look a little less exceptional.

The recent heatwave was on a par with the hot spell of mid-July to mid-August 1975. But it falls well behind the extraordinary heat of late June and early July 1976. As an indication of the levels reached then, no other heatwave in England has exceeded four or five consecutive days with readings of 90° or above somewhere in the country, whereas in 1976 there was an unbroken run of 15 such days.

When looking at the summer as a whole the temperature statistics may not provide a complete picture. The amount of sunshine or lack of rain can have a major influence on the overall impact. In this respect 1976 again stands out. After nine weeks of

virtually unbroken hot, dry weather, coming on top of 14 months of low rainfall without precedent, the country had by late August reached a perilous state.

The weather forecasters predicted a hot dry September. The consensus was that even with normal rainfall throughout the winter there would be a water shortage beyond the summer of 1977.

Just when all hope seemed lost, it started to rain. The wettest September and October on record soon washed away memories of the extraordinary drought. Within a few months the only visible reminder was yellowing notices in office washrooms exhorting everyone to save water as the rain poured down outside.

By most yardsticks this year's summer cannot match the extremes of 1976, though it does rank as an exceedingly warm season. None the less, we cannot deny the headline writers the indulgence of the selective use of the records: it is so much more fun to learn that in one respect it is the hottest since Neil Gwyn rather than merely that overall it is seven years since it was hotter.

W. J. Burroughs

Was Mrs Thatcher inevitable? Discuss

Philosophy may prove that nothing is inevitable, but history has a quality which looks very much like inevitability. It is also, however, shaped by accidents of personality and circumstances which often seem to determine its direction. The interaction of these two influences is the stuff of history, and meditation upon them can, perhaps, be indulged in at the beginning of the quiet month when even prime ministers and presidents retire a little to freshen their minds by recreation, and perhaps contemplation, too.

The closer one looks at the great turning points of history, the clearer it becomes that in the absence of a particular personality history might not have turned. If the Normans had been ruled by a less potent duke than William in 1066, we might still have been speaking a more or less inflected English, minus its French content, and the foundations of our social structure might have been very different.

Again, if Prince Arthur Tudor had lived to consummate his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, producing heirs, would the Church of England (which began with divorce and now looks like deserving to end with it) have come into separate existence in the absence of Henry VIII? Again, if Mary Tudor possessed Elizabeth Tudor's personal qualities, could she have taken England back to Rome for good?

We may even wonder whether the first English revolution would have happened if Prince Henry Stuart had survived to be king instead of his brother, Charles I. If Charles had possessed a more commanding personality, free of his stammer, his challengers might not have dared. Without the guileful Pym (fateful name) to lead the opposition, constantly bringing the political pot back to boiling point whenever it looked like simmering down, the revolution might have lost its momentum. Without Cromwell's sense of divine guidance, the revolutionaries might have lost their way.

The questions are endless. What if James II had not offended by his Catholic machinations just when his dynasty seemed to have the management of Parliament all wrapped up? We should then probably not have had the second revolution. On the other hand, the revolution might then have happened, bloodily, later on. What is surely certain, which is where the inevitability raises its head, is that we should not have reached the twentieth century with the old monarchical principle intact. Whatever our route, the theory of Divine Right would have looked very odd in the nuclear age.

In our own century, the questions become ever more searing. If Lenin had not been allowed by the Kaiser to return to Russia across Germany, how much happier might the lot of Russian citizens (and those in Soviet satellites) have been today? It is a provoking question whether the Marxist state, in some form, would have happened without Marx or Lenin. Most catastrophically, millions are dead, millions more moved from their homes, and boundaries and systems of government have changed simply because Hitler was born. It is more comfortable, at this point, to return to the smaller scale of our own policies, starting with the decline and possible fall of the Labour Party.

People who were disillusioned by Harold Wilson's crab-like defensiveness used to say that Labour's decline would have been avoided if Hugh Gaitskell had lived to make social democracy work by more

effective radical leadership. But Labour's internal incoherence was bound to be resolved sooner or later, and Gaitskell's bluntness would probably have brought the party to its fissiparous climax sooner. Wilson only delayed that moment with his compromises and his search for a social democracy based on consent and on consultation with conflicting interests.

Human nature destroyed the idea. People would not soften pay claims or work more productively and less restrictively for the sake of a plan. Not dogma but experience overthrew the planning, and incomes policy idea under Wilson, Heath and Callaghan.

When Mrs Thatcher came in, pledged against an incomes policy and to a society which would provide a framework of a non-depreciating currency in which self-discipline was possible, she was acting on the logic of history. The spendthrift course of the old sort of social democracy had reduced itself to absurdity. A change was inevi-



Cromwell and Marx: two who have helped shape our lives

table, either towards state socialism or towards a freer, yet paradoxically more disciplined, society.

Which direction it should be was determined by the Tories' rather improbable choice of a particular woman, without wide cabinet experience, at precisely the moment when it would have been fatal to fudge the issue any longer. In a democracy, which provides no scope for Norman conquests and dynastic politics, sailing the tide of inevitability to reach a chosen destination is the better part of leadership.

Mrs Thatcher was the right leader to deal with failures of collectivism which are even acknowledged in the Soviet Union where, because everyone has a job, nobody need work hard. I recommend to Mr Kinnoch the leading article in Tuesday's Times which discussed Soviet ideas for rewarding the hard-working by the incentive of better accommodation, and penalising loafers with the opposite: Would Labour's planned society do the same?

The problems of collectivism are general and inevitable. By an accident of personality, we seem to have got ourselves on the road to remedying them, but nothing is final in politics. Each cure brings new problems. Whether Mrs Thatcher was inevitable is a question one can discuss, but not answer: what is certain is that she was necessary.

But her present thinking cannot be the ultimate thinking. There are new tides to be caught. To direct the state's properly limited resources to where the need is greatest requires a new definition of priorities. We have to think again about employment in a period when jobs will remain short. One of the lessons of history is that an alarming number of leaders begin with success and end with disappointment. The quality needed to avoid this is imagination.

Richard North

No power to this lady's elbow

There is no deep freeze in the North household: no washing machine or dish washer. We have never got round to putting a plug on the whisk mixer, or yoghurt maker. The coffee machine lost a fuse and remains fuseless. The carpets are the ones we inherited from the last occupants: the most that can be said of their pattern is that it will not show the direct damage inflicted by untopped babies.

None of these deficiencies worries my wife, and I thank her for it. But she has been afflicted by a terrible modern desire which, if indulged, could be her undoing. So I must stand firm, even though it hurts me, I think, more than it hurts her.

Having fallen prey to an advertisement, or perhaps to the promptings of more affluent or grasping friends, she tells me that she wants a plug-in Hoover.

It will save her time and work, she says. She's fed up with using a yard broom on the sick-coloured sitting room carpet (and the bedroom carpet, and the stair carpet, and the hall carpet). She spurns dustpan and brush.

All of this I could take. But I start digging in my heels at the way she turns up her nose at the beautiful, wooden Ewbank push-along carpet sweeper which I bought in a jumble sale when I lived in a bedsitter in Hampstead.

When we remember to stick its wheel rims to the back of the way the sweeper works, and when I remember to wipe its little oaken bits with a wet rag, and burnish its brassy parts with metal polish, it is a machine of rare loveliness. And of special efficiency: it will annihilate the earthen mess our son spreads from the aspidistra pot, cut a swathe through the minute spotted beads our eldest has liberated from her favourite Princess necklace, and gobble up the ash scattered by our racier friends.

Cobbett, that prejudiced, girl-fancying truth-sayer, says somewhere that there is no sight lovelier than a woman with the sweat of her brow, or her brow, and I am not so wise that I would dare dispute him. Certainly there is nothing prettier than my wife at her housework, unless it be her doddled-up and ready to wow 'em at a party.

But there is an even prettier sight than both of those: it is my wife doing her exercises, 20 sit-ups here, an essay press-up there. Something from yoga mixed with something from Jane Fonda. All of it exhilarating.

I have decided, therefore, that my next book will be an exercise regime. It will be issued with a record with the routines called out to exotic rhythms. But it will feature something which will ensure instant success. It will insist on a carpet-sweeper-like device as the central exercise tool. I shall suggest, in passing, that a real carpet sweeper will do, if need be. Free with the book will be the stickers and decals which could convert any carpet sweeper - an old Ewbank, say - into the hippest exerciser in town.

I know that my wife will understand that I have gone to these lengths not to diminish her (except where she would like to be diminished: in her actually very slender girth), but as one further move in my campaign to undo the desire of the Central Electricity Generating Board to have us all thinking electric, with the sulphurous skies and radioactive seas that that involves. It is an important piece of subversion.

We would have a slogan: "We'll sweep, sweep, those power stations away". The fish in the sea and in the lakes of Scandinavia will live their lives more freely as we shed our surplus pounds in the Herculean labour of cleaning up after the children.



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TRACK RECORD

The management of British Rail has for long been obliged to labour under the disadvantage that neither the public, nor the Department of Transport, let alone the Cabinet or the ruling party, have felt able to decide whether its operations should be regarded primarily as a commercial enterprise or a public service. Sir Peter Parker, the retiring chairman of British Rail, is a man of acute perception, who has used his personal powers of persuasion and communication in a gallant attempt to adapt this enervating conflict to the best advantage of his organization.

Under such trying conditions, his record must be judged a success, even though it would not stand up to tight scrutiny either on purely commercial or purely public service tests. Certainly, Sir Peter cannot be criticized for making more than usual of British Rail's six month financial figures for the current year, the last before his time-tabled date of retirement. These show an operational profit on its railways of £40m, and a net surplus of £5m for the first 24 weeks of 1983 after allowing for interest and losses, largely seasonal, on subsidiaries. The latter contrasts with a net loss of £81m during the same part of 'strike-torn' 1982. It points to breakeven during the whole of the year and enables Sir Peter to bow out claiming that the board will meet 90 per cent of its £300m investment programme from internal resources this year and that it is on course to stay within its imposed external financing limit, arbitrarily cut from £956m to £933m by the Chancellor last month.

Sadly, even Sir Peter has not been able to square the circle entirely. To most members of the public, travelling or otherwise, British Rail's profit figures will be seen as an artifice. They will point to the massive subsidies. In 1982, central govern-

ment alone contributed £817m by way of the so-called "public service obligation" and provincial authorities a further £73m. Given sufficient subsidies, it may be said, anyone can make a profit.

But these are political considerations. Voters have determined to maintain an economically outdated system of working and living that requires large parts of the railways to be run on a financially uneconomic basis. The results of this, albeit a relic of railway marketing in the low-wage economy of the twenties and thirties, should not be visited upon the management of British Rail in the eighties. Nor should they detract from the genuine achievements of management in recent years.

During 1981 and 1982, British Rail cut its staff by 27,000 to a total of 161,000 on railways and 210,000 as a whole. A further 10,000 jobs are due to go this year. That enables the board to show a graph of rising productivity that stands up fully to the results achieved by conventional private industry despite a recession particularly severe on its bulk coal and steel freight business. The board has also, sometimes controversially, developed its marketing for instance for bulk grain transport in customers' wagons.

Sir Peter's anxiety to carry the trade unions with him, allied to the political conflict between the rail unions, delayed some hard productivity decisions unduly. But the nettle was finally grasped, at the cost of the usual damaging public sector strikes, and considerable progress has been made. Furthermore, Sir Peter and his tough-minded chief executive Mr Bob Reid have made great strides in adapting complex rail finances so as to give line managers the sort of realistic financial objectives that private sector managers prize as a simple target for performance.

Central to this was the 1981-82 reorganization, which split the railways into business sectors, functionally divided according to the markets they serve: freight, parcels, inter-city, London and South-East and provincial services. There is no doubt that the board's operating executives have welcomed this more than any other measure to enable them to operate as managers rather than administrators.

Sadly, this subtle commercial adaptation at British Rail has not been matched in Whitehall. Privatization could have a strong creative role to play at British Rail, but it has not been properly thought out. As a result, the board has been pressed into concessions to sell activities peripheral to a public service such as its hotels and Sealink ferries. Admittedly, British Rail's performance in these activities did not stand up well in comparison with private sector competitors. But if it were a commercial company, British Rail would probably not be selling them. The example of private railways within Japan's state system suggests that proper marketing would use railways as means of transporting people to destinations where the profits can be made, whether they be resorts, ferries or airports. The possibility of introducing private capital into a new specialized London to Gatwick airport link suggests a more fruitful approach perhaps involving the separation of rail track as a public service from commercial rail operation.

But these are battles for a new chairman to fight alongside his awesome management challenge. They may explain why the government has failed to appoint a successor to Sir Peter Parker, who is due to retire next month. That failure is shabby treatment for an organization that should be seen as an important national corporation rather than a post-ponable problem in the Secretary of State's in-tray.

AFRICA'S GIANT AT THE POLLS

"It is now definite and clear that democracy has no future in Nigeria," said Mr Ebenezer Babatope, spokesman of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) yesterday, claiming that the presidential election had been "crudely manipulated and twisted" by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN). Luckily hyperbole is the common currency of Nigerian politics, and it is not likely that Mr Babatope meant literally what he said. Democracy is not easy to work in a vast underdeveloped country like Nigeria in which three major ethnic groups, divided by language, religion and culture, are struggling to live side by side with a host of smaller peoples. In twenty-three years of independence the country has had fourteen of military rule and three of civil war. Corruption, violence and electoral malpractice are still very much a feature of its political life. The current election has not been a model of regularity. But that it has been held at all is a considerable achievement, and there is so far little serious evidence to suggest that the irregularities are such as to invalidate the overall result.

That result is now virtually

certain to be the reelection of President Shehu Shagari, which explains Mr Babatope's outburst. His party had been hoping that this election would at last bring the triumph of its leader and founder, the veteran opposition leader and standard-bearer of the Yoruba people, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. In 1979, after losing to Mr Shagari, he for a long time refused to recognise him as properly elected, though he did recognize his *de facto* authority as president.

It must be hoped that once again Chief Awolowo will bring himself to accept the result. Rejection of the president's legitimacy by the UPN and other opposition parties could indeed be a fatal blow to Nigerian democracy, because it would make impossible the orderly conduct of the elections for the two houses of the federal assembly, the state assemblies, and the nineteen governorships, all of which should be held before October 1.

It may well be that in those elections the NPN will do significantly less well than its candidate, Mr Shagari, has done in this one. The President is

undoubtedly more popular than his party and it is striking that the worst his opponents have to say about him is that he is a weak man who does not stand up sufficiently to the corrupt magnates and apparatchiks of the NPN. His personal honesty, and his dedication to the cause of Nigerian unity, are above reproach. One of the most striking gestures of his presidency occurred last year when, at the twenty-second anniversary celebrations of Nigerian independence, held in the future federal capital, Abuja, he conferred the nation's highest honour on Chief Awolowo and on another opposition leader, the late Alhaji Aminu Kano. He was particularly delighted when Chief Awolowo accepted his invitation to a dinner in his honour after the celebration.

If that Abuja spirit can be maintained under the second Shagari administration there must be hope that Nigerian democracy can weather the storm of oil price recession, and that Nigeria can become for Africa the example of working democracy in a major developing country that India is for Asia.

SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRIS

The British are awfully good at ruins. The call them "the heritage" and market them very successfully. They are no slouches either when it comes to gardens according to this week's *English Heritage Monitor* published by the English Tourist Board. The ETB is an enterprising body which, in the recent past, has put a Goon, Mr Spike Milligan, on a near empty Northumbrian beach as prime time television advertising, an appropriate combination for a nation devoted to the ancient, like the old Kingdom of Northumbria, and the eccentric, like Mr Milligan.

Some might argue that the British preoccupation with the past is part of the relative unwillingness of the country to modernise since 1945, a mixture of self-indulgent antiquarianism and the saccharine self-delusion of "Merrie England" as purveyed by the unforgettable Professor Welch in Mr Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim*. But it could be maintained with equal conviction that the balance and context provided by an acute sense of what has gone before has helped prevent really severe disruption in a period of economic dislocation and adjustment.

The heritage has been affected by recession, however. True 1983, like 1982, is witnessing a boom in visits to English gardens. But the ruined castles and historic houses are experiencing patchier fortunes as shown by figures for the 400 English monuments cared for by the Department of the Environment, beautifully reserved, exquisitely kept and guarded by polite, uniformed staff in green cap-bands. There is a five-year trend of falling attendances, down from 11.9 million in 1978 to 8.1 million last year, and rising prices producing higher receipts, up from £4.9 million to £7.2 million over the same period.

The task of conserving and marketing the monuments is to be devolved to a new quango, the Historic Buildings Commission. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, will shortly be announcing the names of its chairman and commissioners. They will convene in April, just in time for the start of the 1984 tourist season, and assume most of the functions of the department's ancient monuments directorate, including the task of advising the minister on which buildings should be added to the

list which saves them from destruction. The commission's domain will encompass old favourites and big international crowd-pullers like the Tower of London and Hadrian's Wall, where a church of Italians was sighted at Chesters on the North Tyne last weekend, reliving, perhaps, the experiences of long-dead relatives sent to Rome's northern frontier, reputedly the most unpopular posting in the Empire. It also includes the care and maintenance of lesser known gems like Norham Castle on the Tweed, yards from the Scottish border, for several medieval centuries just about the most dangerous place in Britain and now a serene monument of stone and sward.

The new commission will clearly be worried about maintenance costs and falling attendances. Marketing will be at a premium. Mercifully, its remit does not reflect the brasher side of the new Tourism. It will not be a case of break even or face decay. Privatization, let alone closure, is not an option. Nor should it be. It is intended that the heritage factor shall prevail as it did in the 1930s when the old Office of Works kept the ruins standing throughout the slump.

Prospect of hitch in green belts

From Mr D. Jennings-Smith
Sir, My first reaction on learning of the Government's draft circular and on reading your first leader (August 8) was - what, again!

Every few years the Government of whatever persuasion has issued a circular telling the planning authorities to examine their green belts and identify more land for development. This will be the fourth or fifth such exercise in erosion to my knowledge. Of course, as you say, it bears no executive force, but ministry inspectors hearing appeals take it into consideration!

A green belt is intended to stop the outward spread of towns and also to prevent them merging into one another. Originally enough land was indicated in the old development plans to allow for expansion of the larger villages within the green belts and the "rounding off" of the smaller ones. This enabled schools, sewage works, water supplies and other services to be built for a known population. It also made sound economic sense.

The green belt concept is one of the few planning ideas readily grasped and supported by the general public. A green belt meant no development. Not so today: it means planning permission may be difficult.

It is a pity that the word "green" has been used. It conjures up visions of green fields and open countryside. But the object of the exercise is to halt development and population growth within the inner and outer boundaries and encourage it elsewhere, particularly the rehabilitation of run-down inner-city areas.

The idea that a green belt has to be open fields encourages owners to allow land to become derelict so that they can say it "makes no contribution to the green belt". Rubbish - of course it does - by just being there.

Yours faithfully,
D. JENNINGS-SMITH
Nimmet House,
Dunston, Essex,
August 8.

From the Reverend Lord Sandford
Sir, While I would agree entirely with the comment in your leading article that a "conspectus" for the whole South-east region is needed, your lament for the last planning organisation covering the South-east is misleading.

Cut in arts support
From Mrs Rupert Hambro
Sir, The recent announcement of a one per cent cut by the Government in its support for the arts has produced shivers in all the recipient institutions. They well know that practices of this sort will eventually doom the artistic future of Britain for generations to come.

It is not sufficient for the Government to recommend that corporations and the business community fill the gap through greater sponsorship. At least a portion of the cut should be used by the Government, through the vehicles of the Arts Council and ABSA (Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts), to educate the public and business community in their responsibility to give to the Arts, and the benefits they will receive from so doing.

This can be achieved through a well-conceived public relations campaign.

The Government should also study carefully the benefits of tax relief for the individual and further relief for corporate donations. Without education and incentives, it is difficult to create awareness, and without awareness, generosity, business and individuals, the artistic heritage of Britain is endangered.

M. R. HAMBRO,
Organising Director,
Royal Opera House Trust,
5 The Boltons, SW10,
August 1.

Limits of parole

From Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP for Knowsley North (Labour)

Sir, Lord Windlesham, the Chairman of the Parole Board, rightly draws attention (July 21) to the contribution which extending parole to short-term prisoners could make to reducing recidivism.

The overwhelming weight of evidence indicates that any impact which imprisonment may have occurs mainly in the early stages of the sentence. Thereafter, continued detention blunts the impact which a shorter sentence could have, as prisoners adjust to the inmates. Moreover, research has shown that the combined effect of parole supervision and the threat of recall to prison for misbehaviour significantly reduces the probability of offenders being reconvicted.

Lord Windlesham refers to the financial cost of extending parole to short-termers, which the Home Office estimates at £2,250,000. In relation to the overall cost of the penal system, this would be a relatively economies of providing for an average of 2,500 people who would otherwise be in prison to be under supervision in the community.

Going private

From Mr I. J. Woolf
Sir, Your editorial on July 18 and Mr Alan Tiffin's letter (July 26) prompt me to write.

I do not know all the pros and cons of privatising British Telecom but, having seen one case of privatisation close at hand, I can assure you that it is a concept which does not always work out quite as well as its proponents would have you believe.

The British Forces Broadcasting Service was, until April last year, a most efficient and low-cost organisation operating as a part of the Ministry of Defence. Shortly after May, 1979, I was told that privatisation, or hiring out, which previously had been rejected as a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The South East Regional Economic Planning Council did indeed perish in the quango-culling of 1979-80; but the Standing Conference on London and South East Regional Planning, which for more than 20 years has had a major role in shaping plans for the region, is alive, vigorous and preparing to do precisely what you now judge to be necessary.

In 1980 the conference persuaded the then Secretary of State, Mr Heseltine, to issue a letter of strategic guidance for the development of the region in the 1980s. Conference published that letter, with a commentary upon it, in *South East Regional Planning: The 1980s* (SC 1500), which stands for the present as the planning strategy for the region.

Since 1980 the conference has carried out further work on major planning issues which will need resolution in the period up to the year 2000 and beyond.

Thus, for example, published in March, 1982 a study of the impact of the M25, which gives Mr Jenkin, and others, the assessment you call for of the commercial effects of the completion of the orbital motorway. Mr Jenkin's civil servants are among many who have found this invaluable.

It has worked jointly with the House Builders' Federation to establish and publish (in November, 1981) the facts about the availability of land for house-building in the region; and this work continues.

Conference has just completed, and is about to publish, a review of the situation in the region - the South East Regional Monitor - which takes into account changes revealed by the 1981 census and highlights the problems which must be tackled in developing and rolling forward current policies.

Armed with this, it intends to lay before the Secretary of State the case for a review of the present strategic guidelines as a joint enterprise of the Government and the local authorities of the South-east joined in conference.

Your advocacy of such an undertaking is most welcome.

Yours faithfully,
SANDFORD, Chairman,
Standing Conference on London and South East Regional Planning,
East Wing, 1st Floor,
20 Albert Embankment, SE1.

Dadd painting

From Mr David Gould

Sir, The astronomical rise in the value of works of art, so admirably shown in the difference between the price realised at auction in 1964 for Dadd's "Oberon and Titania" and the price earlier this year - £50,000 against a mere £7,000 - is no reflection upon the persuasive auctioneer, as your correspondent from Scarborough suggests (July 27). But it is a sad reflection upon the scholarship, or the aesthetic awareness of those in charge of public galleries who might have purchased the picture for the nation nearly 20 years ago.

Time after time in the past 40 years I have seen first-class paintings, often "unfashionable" at that moment, sold cheaply at auction and I have regretfully concluded that there are very few perspicacious curators in charge of public galleries in this country.

Perhaps it is an unwritten law that nothing should be added to a public collection unless it is very highly priced? Nevertheless, Sir Karl Parker bought wonderful drawings for the Ashmolean at Oxford on a limited budget and there are a few municipal galleries, such as the little one at Hove, in Sussex, where an even smaller budget is obviously laid out with remarkable acumen.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOULD,
c/o 53A Hazelbourne Road,
Batham, SW12,
August 1.

unity. However, these estimates make no reference to the large savings which would result from ending the holding in police custody of prisoners for whom there is at present no room in prison: the annual cost of keeping an average of 300 prisoners in police custody is £11m.

Overall, therefore, this long-overdue measure would both increase public protection and produce a net reduction in public expenditure.

Sincerely,
ROBERT KILROY-SILK,
Chairman,
Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group,
House of Commons,
July 23.

Not cricket

From Mr T. M. Sharmam

Sir, It is bad enough to agree to have cruise missiles here in England, but to have American football as well must surely herald the end of our ancient and revered civilisation.

Yours sincerely,
T. M. SHARMAM
Walton Crescent,
Oxford,
August 8.

method of running, was now a distinct possibility. Fresh studies were commissioned - and these went on for over two years - but in the end no one was able to identify any savings, either in financial or staff terms, which would accrue out of privatisation. But my impression was that ministers were determined to push the idea through, irrespective of the merits of the case.

Major objections to the plan included the merging of the BFBS with the SKC (Services Kinema Corporation) a quite dissimilar organisation with which we had nothing in common: our strong feeling that Forces broadcasting had developed very well under the direct MoD umbrella, so why the change? Also the staff felt that the hive-off would lead to a separation from our

Ways of achieving mobility at top

From Mr D. D. Green

Sir, Those of us who have managed to spend some time on both sides of the barrier which separates the Civil Service and industry will share George Walden's concern (feature, August 5) at the institutional constraints which make greater interchange so difficult to achieve.

The recent demise of the Central Policy Review Staff has removed another area in which cross-fertilisation between the public and private sectors could take place in a variety of ways and at a variety of levels.

We should welcome any initiatives which will provide for greater mobility between the upper levels of Whitehall and industry. Otherwise mutual distrust and incomprehension will remain the order of the day rather than the dialogue and consensus which is so urgently needed here and is apparently more easily achieved by some of our major overseas competitors.

Yours sincerely,
D. D. GREEN,
West Hayes, Rockbourne,
Fordingbridge,
Hampshire,
August 5.

From Mr A. C. Jefford

Sir, One may applaud George Walden's energetic call for mobility between "business, the senior Civil Service and politics", more than likely, as he says, the prevalent "apartheid mentality" has its roots in the security-loving national character. But to suggest that the way out of this impasse is to be found in the example of the French ENA system, and to further claim that one of its chief virtues is its "powerful old boys' network", enabling *entrants* to "range ambitiously around the French establishment", is to propound a solution that is worse than the problem itself.

What Mr Walden is proposing, in the same breath as he damns the trade unions for having failed to advance beyond the nineteenth century, is a classic though unspoken closed-shop agreement: jobs for the boys, by any other name. "But

look at the quality of the product", he urges.

The ENA system produces - agreed - a handful of brilliant academic racehorses, trained for every jump and clever enough to shut the stable doors on all but their own thoroughbred stock: what sort of mobility is that? Where, then, would be your Luke Ritters, your Stuart Young?

It has taken a long time for the British to draw reluctantly away from the cherished old-boy mentality and at many a selection board it lingers yet: the last thing we need is a reinstitutionalisation of this divisive and alienating system at the place it matters most - the top.

Yours faithfully,
J. JEFFORD,
20 Herve Hill, SE24,
August 6.

From Professor P. G. Moore
Sir, Mr George Walden ("On your bikes at the top", August 5) suggests the setting up of a British version of the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). We already have parallels in the UK in the shape of business schools, such as those at London and Manchester.

However, some two thirds of the graduates of these schools go into manufacturing industry (contrary to popular mythology), with the remainder into a variety of service industries. Virtually none of the graduates enter the Civil Service, the Diplomatic Corps, the nationalised industries or the clearing banks. Hence, the interchange at the top that Mr Walden advocates, rightly in my view, simply cannot take place in the manner he suggests.

We don't need to set up a new ENA in the UK; we need to change both the attitudes at the top towards interchange and the recruitment policies lower down the various sectors concerned.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. MOORE, Deputy Principal,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
August 5.

Paid jobs for all

From Mr E. C. L. Butler

Sir, Following the letter in your issue of today (August 3) it seems obvious, and certainly not demeaning to the nature of man, that as his mastery of the techniques of production increases there will be a trend towards a shorter working week - but not, one would think, as low as 20 hours in the foreseeable future.

There is surely no basis for the almost "Luddite" thinking which seems to be prevalent, to the effect that any new invention which increases the work that can be done by other than human hands is bound to decrease the opportunities for employment. The history of the past 200 years shows that new, hitherto unheard of opportunities for employment are opened up.

I see no reason for pessimistic views that paid and useful work will not be available in the future for all

of working age. Any period of great change, and particularly the very rapid changes in the last 10 or 20 years, causes temporary unemployment, which may last for some years, but in the end new jobs will arise.

One of the problems, of course, lies in attitudes to education and training, including such matters as apprenticeships, but when we hear, as we do increasingly, of the facility shown by even young children in using the new microcomputers and video technology, surely this gives us all hope for the future.

It is clear that further thought must be given to the need for the education and training of all people to the standards required for the future.

Yours very truly,
E. C. L. BUTLER,
30 Mayfair,
Post Hill,
Tiverton,
Devon.

Pensions policy

From Mr D. Colin Evans

Sir, Messrs Nottage and Rhodes (July 18) call for a royal commission to examine some of the major social and financial problems inherent in our national pensions policy.

While many feel that pension provision is inadequate, especially for those who change jobs in mid-career, an examination is needed of the over-provision in the public sector and the immediate effects on the economy.

Because the public sector provides not only a pension based on full salary but also the state pension, the total quantum of benefit enjoyed by the public servant generates a pension well in excess of the conventional target of two-thirds final salary.

This initial pension is such that public servants earning less than about £12,000 a year will be better off in retirement than their colleagues at work. Surely this is a major distortion and an excessive allocation of resources to the retired public servant.

The scale of this distortion is as much as £2bn a year and would be much higher if account was taken of inflation-proofing and the earlier retirement age for men - after 60 compared with 65 in the private sector.

It may be that a reduction in pension allocation could enhance salaries in the public sector. However, if public-service salaries can be justified at the present levels then the subsidy in favour of public-service pensioners should be eliminated. The sums involved would be of major interest not only to the Chancellor but also to the taxpayer - after all, they represent pennies off income tax.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN EVANS,
William M. Mercer Ltd,
4 Southampton Place WC1,
July 27.

Relatively speaking

From Mr A. F. Deveson

Sir, As "one of these whom guys", so described by an RAF NCO to a fellow corporal more than 40 years ago after I had used the word (correctly), I priest at the use of it in today's leader (August 9): "If Labour reaches office, there is no doubt whom the *de facto* deputy Prime Minister must be..."

Yours faithfully,
A. F. DEVESON,
10 Hampden Drive,
Kidlington, Oxford.

From Mr D. G. J. Millington
Sir, Mr Kilpatrick (August 6) should count himself lucky to have been spared "crewperson".

Yours faithfully,
D. G. J. MILLINGTON,
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D. G. J. MILLINGTON,
Boswell Hill

THE ARTS

Sean Mathias's *Cowardice*, which opens at the Ambassadors tonight, has lured the director Anthony Page home to the British stage after a decade away. Interview by Sheridan Morley

The view from the outside world

Some day soon, some historian of the postwar British theatre is going to have to work out precisely why it was that the most talented team of directors ever established in this country at one theatre (the Royal Court) by one man (George Devine) had all, within a decade of that man's death, quit the mainstream London theatre without much desire to return except for the occasional single show. Why, in fact, the very men who might have been expected to be running our main theatrical establishments in the 1980s are the four most notable by their absence from them. Tony Richardson went to California and the occasional feature film, William Gaskill to the touring fringe, Lindsay Anderson to what was left of the British film industry and Anthony Page to American television.

But this summer one of them at least is back in central London: Page's first British stage production in 10 years opens at the Ambassadors tonight after a recent tour. Written by Sean Mathias and called *Cowardice*, it is the story of a strange and obsessive relationship between an actress and a writer who fantasizes an existence in the plays of Noel Coward, and it stars Janet Suzman and Nigel Davenport with Ian McKellen, who first took the play to Page in New York almost two years ago.

"I was doing *Amadeus* at the time, and one Sunday night we had a reading of *Cowardice* in my loft in New York with Ian, an American actress and Nicol Williamson in what is now the Davenport part. It struck me then as a remarkable piece about a brother and sister living in a dream world where he believes he is still in touch with Coward, and we decided there and then to go to a stage further and try a reading in London. That we did a year later, with Ian again and Judi Dench and Simon Callow in the other roles. At that time we were thinking of it as a studio-theatre piece, though recently in Bath and Brighton with the final cast I think we've established that it can work in much larger theatres too. Certainly I've not come across any other play in the last ten years which has made me want to

come back and work in London the way that this one did."

Born in September 1935, by a remarkable coincidence in precisely the same Bangalore military hospital where Lindsay Anderson was born 12 years earlier, Page was a soldier's son who went through Winchester and Oxford towards a military career, only discovering along the way that he in fact wanted to work in the theatre.

"I was at Oxford in the mid-Fifties, at a time when most directors seemed to be at Cambridge; still, we did have to be at Cambridge, and I was at the Dudley Moore who once played Enobarbus for me and wrote a lot of music for my productions. But I was already obsessed by America, by Brando and the Method and a whole way of theatrical life that seemed totally wonderful and quite alien to the middle-class literary world of Oxford. So in my first long vacation I hitch-hiked around America, and ended up as a doorman at the Paramount Cinema in Times Square. In those days you had to beg cheap plane tickets off the Canadian Royal Air Force, but I began going back to New York whenever I could, and then after Oxford I got a grant to study there at the Neighborhood Playhouse under Sanford Meisner. I never really intended to be an actor, but I thought it might help me to be a better director if I knew how to do it."

"After a year, while I was still in New York, Tony Richardson came out to do *The Entertainer* and wrote a piece in the *New York Times* about American acting which I read, and that was how we met; he was looking for an assistant at the Court who knew something about American theatre work, and he offered me a summer job there for three months in 1958."

Those three months stretched into a total of 14 years at the Court, though in that time Page did take long leaves of absence - notably to run the Dundee Rep for a year (when he first worked with Nicol Williamson) and to do the two productions that really made his name, Henry Living's *Nil Carborundum* and Middleton's *Women Beware Women* in the first RSC experimental season at the Arts. Then it was back to the Court, where



Anthony Page: "Perhaps it is time I came home for a while"

by 1964 he had become an artistic director and was doing a vast amount of that theatre's best work - Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, the original *Parlor for Me*, *Hotel in Amsterdam*, *Time Present* and also such non-OSborne pieces as *Krapp's Last Tape* and *Not I*.

"But I was always terrified of being an administrator, terrified of losing in the office all the energy you need for rehearsing. Besides that, there were a lot of rows after George's death and, although some of them were undoubtedly creative, it gradually became clear to me that there was no real continuity or purpose at the Court any more. At least not for me. I also think that after 14 years in the shelter of state subsidy I was very keen to gamble again, to escape the trappings of a set season with a new show coming in every six weeks, and just to see what the outside world was like."

And the outside world seemed to mean America: 10 years ago, by which time he had already done a lot of BBC television from *Z Cars* on, and had also directed the film of *Inadmissible Evidence*, Page was offered in California a drama-documentary based on the Pueblo Incident and since then his work has been very largely in films for American television.

"Ninety million people saw one I made a couple of years ago with Mickey Rooney, and that's not an audience to be easily despised."

Besides, things only happen because you are there to make them happen: one television film leads to another if the ratings are good enough, just as one subsidized-company play can lead to another. But in this country the National and the Barbican are like great walled castles; you have to be inside them to do the work, and if you're on the outside then you get the occasional polite letter from Peter Hall but it's that much harder to get a production going from across the Atlantic."

Outside television, Page has also had a somewhat less successful (albeit intriguing) feature-film career consisting of a remake of *The Lady Vanishes*, a rare Roger Corman art film called *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* and a critically reviled Richard Burton piece about a murderous Catholic schoolmaster-priest called *Exorcism*. All that plus the abortive *Nureyev/Nijinsky* film has left him with an understandable preference for television.

"Hollywood just takes so much longer: look at the three years Tony Richardson has spent getting *Hotel New Hampshire* in front of a camera. In America films are like the theatre: you have to put so much time and money into every single project, and then if it's a play a whole year's work can be killed overnight by a couple of lines in the *New York Times* review. There just isn't the time in anyone's life to take risks like that. In television

you can work with very good people like Glenda Jackson and Dirk Bogarde, with whom I did the *Rosald Dahl-Pat Neal* story last year, and it's all over in a matter of weeks. You don't put all your blood and sweat into a show which closes in a night."

But where his original mentor Tony Richardson is, I suspect, now lost to California forever, with Page I sense that there might now be a more permanent return to London than just *Cowardice*.

"I begin to feel terribly out of touch with London and, although I don't understand everything that's going on here (how for instance a film as good as Lindsay's *Brianna* Hospital could be dismissed by the same critics who praised the infinitely more simplistic *Ploughman's Lunch*), I do feel that perhaps I'd like to come home. The problem in America is that even in television you can never initiate anything; you have to wait for the moguls to consent, and they are getting more and more conservative under Reagan. For months I've been wanting to do a marvellous new television script of 1984 but nobody in California will touch it: 85 per cent of the Director's Guild there are unemployed now, and Reagan has made it a very cynical nation where the truth is more and more inclined to get buried. Perhaps it is time I came home for a while." That is a hint that neither the National nor the RSC should be daft enough to ignore.

Television Cheap sentiments

"Love" is something in which advertising agencies tend to specialize, so it was perhaps not surprising that *Quest for Love* (Channel 4) resembled a Pearl and Dean tour of the emotions. Seven women were asked "to explore their feelings... their needs, their desires... their experiences"; and also, it seems, their capacity for cliché. The men they could love had to be "warm... sharing... protective... decisive... dynamic... macho, but not too much". A whole *Magnolia* of adjectives, whirling too fast in the plastic bucket of sensibility to find a suitable noun.

One young woman could not decide whether she really wanted Robert De Niro or a brain surgeon, or perhaps she meant Robert De Niro after he had seen a brain surgeon: someone else seemed to end up with "the bastards", while another wanted someone who would "make a contribution to mankind". The same woman also wanted to be "touched in a poignant place" so that she might cry with joy and sadness - perhaps, after all, that might be a large enough contribution.

With the settled conviction

that they knew what they were talking about, for a whole hour men discussed women and women discussed men, conversations with the odd misfired aphorism. Surely Sappho and Catullus could do better than this, even from the grave - and it ought to be apparent by now, from programmes such as this, that most people have nothing of interest to say on even those subjects which touch them in a poignant place.

Quest for Love, however, was remarkable for its strange electronic tricks: it looked as if it had been edited by first-year students in a film school. An irritating extra was the male interviewer, who asked what he obviously considered to be disturbing questions in a bogus mid-Atlantic accent. The whole programme in fact exuded fakery - the equivalent of those advertisements where actors pose as members of the "general public" in order to talk about the shampoo which clears their dandruff. But that is perhaps what "love" is like: strange, how impotent cheap sentiments can be.

Peter Ackroyd

Galleries Moral pottery

Velocipede for stout travellers (German, late nineteenth century) from *Fairings*



Michael Cardew/
Gordon Baldwin
Crafts Council

Lustware
Crafts Centre

Fairings/
Nineteenth-Century
Pressed Glass

Victoria and Albert
Museum

Fortunately there is plenty to contemplate.

The Lustware at the Crafts Centre in Earlham Street until September 10 is placed about halfway between these two extremes: many of the pieces are there mainly to be admired for the tridimensional places, but at the same time a potter like Alan Cagier-Smith does not despise the humble domestic objects, ready for use as well as admiration, and Tobias Harrison, the most originalizing of the six potters shown, applies his formidable techniques to (admittedly very luxurious) tableware.

If you find all this evidence of the present grandeur of ceramic art in this country a bit overwhelming, you can always end by taking refuge at the Victoria and Albert Museum where there are two delightfully light-hearted shows right next to each other, one of a major gift of Nineteenth-Century Pressed Glass and the other of the Florence Dagg collection of *Fairings*. Both forms were intended largely as gifts and decoration for what might then have been unselfconsciously called humble homes. The *Fairings* in particular, with their little mainly ceramic tableaux, which chamber pots beneath the beds figure prominently, lovers are always being surprised and happy before always turn into grotesque after, are charming in themselves and offer, like the seaside postcard, a vivid insight into the English character. No, perhaps it is not art, but it would be a snooty taste indeed which could remain completely unmoved.

John Russell Taylor

Welsh National Opera are to give two performances during this year's Frankfurt Festival. On September 9 they present a concert of British music including the first performance of a specially commissioned song-cycle, *The Great Question Mark*, by the Welsh composer John Metcalf, based on texts relating to Wagner; the following evening they give a concert of *Isolde* with John Hutchinson and Linda Esther Gray in the title roles and Richard Armstrong conducting.

FOYLES ART GALLERY
MOVEMENT IN BRONZE
AN EXHIBITION OF BRONZE SCULPTURE BY JOHN MULVEY
10-6 daily until 17 August
113-119 Charing Cross Road
London WC2



Scottish Number

Craze Woodland Garden in Colour
Peter Cox describes one of Scotland's great gardens, which offers year-long contrast in colour and form.
The National Trust for Scotland
Michael Wright examines the NT's task of reconciling conflicting interests in the mountain areas it owns.
Following the Otter
Observations of one otter family in north-west Argyll over several years, by Don and Bridget MacKaskill.
Georgian Restoration in Edinburgh
David Howarth looks at the first restoration of Scottish housing by a cooperative in the Leith area.
Values of the Grange Moors
Grouse shooting's role in providing employment and defending heather moors is discussed by the Earl Peel.

COUNTRY LIFE
ON SALE NOW

Opera

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Bayreuth Festival

The moment which characterizes the revival of *Meistersinger* at Bayreuth comes just before the final curtain. Hans Sachs pats Sixtus Beckmesser solidly on the back and the pair amble off towards the River Pegnitz as though nothing had happened to disturb the even tenor of life in old Nuremberg. Wolfgang Wagner's production is not about the challenge of the new to old traditions or even the sudden flowering of love between Eva and Walther. Rather it is a sunlit view of a nice, friendly city where they are jolly good fellows, one and all.

Rarely has a Beckmesser seemed as pleasant as that of Hermann Frey. Guss is the slimy, toadlike creature that Geraint Evans, among others, used to play, malice oozing from every pore. Instead there is a well-scrubbed, clean-cut chap with attractive wavy hair, still very much in the marriage market, who seems almost apologetic for making those marks on the slate when Walther's song is first heard in Act I. Herr Frey's baritone is still in good order, not a big voice but a well-rounded one with every syllable crystal-clear.

Bernard Weikl's Sachs is the main reason for catching this *Meistersinger*. He is almost certainly the best of the current crop of German-speaking operatic baritones. Weikl has been coming to Bayreuth for a decade and his Sachs shows immense assurance: he is no greybeard, fretting over making the right decisions, but a powerful master-craftsman, whose bushy, black whiskers and equally black mane suggest that he is at the height of his powers. And so too, probably, is Herr Weikl at the moment. The voice is as sturdy as the figure and Weikl shows no sign of fading during that Festspiel scene, although the hour-long



Bernard Weikl: Sachs at the height of his powers

Bayreuth intervals must be vocally restorative. His weakness is a tendency to lie at certain phrases and make them sound lumpy. A little more legato would not come amiss, but there are few if any better Sachs around at the moment. Weikl starts with a kindly but no-nonsense character and he sticks with it.

The cast has remained virtually unchanged since the production began in 1981, with sets by Reinhard Heinrich which are as hospitable as Wolfgang Wagner's Nuremberg: the right touch of high-minded austerity for the Katharinenkirche and Sachs's workshop, picture-postcard prettiness for the central act and the final scene. Some of the singers, though, should be moving on to other roles. Walther now sounds as though it lies uncomfortably high for Siegfried Jerusalem, who was severely tested in the final act.

His hangdog expression, borzoi breed, for much of the opera recalled Bob Willis in the middle of a losing streak, and this performance did not hold up a candle to his exciting Siegmund in the *Ring*. Mari Anne Haggander is a pallid Eva, after the excessive oping that goes on, improbably, in church. Graham Clark's David certainly lets itself be heard and seen, with much extrovert behaviour, but his tenor is often uncomfortably shrill.

Norbert Balatsch's chorus, with Bernd Weikl, provide the greatest musical pleasures of the evening, both in church and when they pour on to the banks of the Pegnitz in a decorous version of Hampeated Heath on an August Bank Holiday. Boris Stein, as last year, conducted the orchestra: the playing was no more than routine and sometimes less than that.

John Higgins

Promenade Concert

London Sinfonietta/
Howarth
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The Proms' small Shostakovich festival continued on Tuesday with the Fourteenth Symphony from the London Sinfonietta. Can anyone believe that this last, austere masterpiece could have been written by the same man who produced the "Leningrad" Symphony?

Here, everything is held in deadly check, and on this occasion the vast size of the hall magnified the economy of the effects: a single bell stroke, the unearthly clatter of *col legno* and pizzicato strings, a yearning cello solo.

The "Leningrad" assaults us

with the fury of war; here war is reduced to a tapped semaphoric of tiny drums and the eerie click of a xylophone. Like a desiccated echo of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, this symphony faces death with uncertainty, though without fear.

On this occasion the symphony's disturbing qualities were most effectively conjured up by Felicity Palmer, whose supreme command of the Russian sounds and their understated melodic lines has only grown since I last heard her sing them - the steady edge of her voice is now warmed and strongly focused. From where I sat, Malcolm King made a less direct impression, and Elgar Howarth's conducting was clear and crisp rather than evocative. Christopher van Kampen was the superb cello soloist.

In the first half, Ligeti's atmospherically meteorological sky-picture, *Clocks and Clouds*, resounded prettily around the hall: though the detailed interweaving of lines, like reflections in a perpetual mirror, were often lost, the overall shape - very short musical events - was splendidly captured by Howarth and the clucking BBC Singers.

Bartók's Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta, an aptly brittle companion to the Shostakovich, fired less well: ill-tuned ensemble from the strings, and little invigoration from the conductor. But percussion and piano cut crisply through the dry Albert Hall air.

Nicholas Kenyon



Richard O'Callaghan and Zoe Wanamaker grabbing their comic opportunities

Theatre

Going all the way for laughs

The Comedy of Errors
Stratford

Hardly is Antony Sher's red button nose back in its box after the last performance of Adrian Noble's *King Lear* than it pops up again at Stratford. And, since this is *The Comedy of Errors* and there are twin Dromios clowning around being, like their twin masters, comically mistaken for each other, there are two noses, largely disguising the mischievous but dissimilar features of Richard O'Callaghan and Henry Goodman behind them.

For the routines, and the production consists of little else, Mr Noble has drawn on silent films (or, supposedly, romantic tales when emotion appears) and music hall acts as well as the circus.

Utz, whose grotesque Restoration costumes for *The Two Rivals* had such superbly satirical effect, has even more fun here, knowing that the whole thing is nonsense. The entire cast wear colour make-up, usually white apart from the Antipholuses, whose blue faces mark their affinity, and combine appropriate twentieth-century dress (city suits and the *Financial Times* for the Ephesian merchants) with maybe a clownish hat or Little Tich's boots.

Adriana, wife of one Antipholus and mistress of one Dromio (only one of each), gets the sort of two-piece jersey suit that suburban shrews wear in Ayckbourn, while her sister Luciana (Jane Bookler) is poured into a frilly pink body stocking suitable for a magician's lady assistant, with her blonde hair twisted into a structure resembling an inverted ice-cream cone.

It may be anything for a laugh, but the laughs take a long time to come. The pit orchestra that pours out Hollywood schmaltz when Antipholus of Syracuse falls for his sister-in-law greets with a crash on the drums every Dromio pratfall, kick up the behind or knock on the bonce - never before did I realize how tedious the drubblings in Plautus or Aristophanes must have been.

Tugs-of-war collapsing in a heap, a funny policeman on his bicycle, a chase round and round the back of the set - well, that for once was really funny, but the effect, as with the Fool's set-up routines in Mr Noble's *Lear*, is to load down and slow down the action.

By the time it gets to London it will be, or ought to be, faster and sharper and no doubt the hundred or so worst gags will have been improved on. Towards the end, with the episode of Puck, the magician turned into a full-scale musical

number, the audience came to life and they cheered at the end, which was nice.

The one element in the play which will never be there is the very real drama surrounding Adriana's marriage with the Ephesian Antipholus, which is cracking up badly when his Syracusean twin blunders in. Husbands back from lunch late and reluctantly after long business drinks, wife's sister refusing marriage because she sees it in practice there is plenty here a director could have used. Similarly, little remains of the romantic scene between the Syracusean and Luciana, with him hanging upside down out of a window while the ice-cream cone dromes out enthusiastic Elizabethan quatrains.

As the Antipholuses, Mr Greenwood and Peter McNery are amazingly athletic and use as much of their charm as they dare without risking reality. Zoe Wanamaker (Adriana) finds a few comic opportunities that really show her quality and grabs them. Mr Goodman, who already knew, was a born clown but Mr O'Callaghan takes to it like a natural too. Their wonderful double act with Antipholus's front door, balanced on backs and peepers, reappearing in different places, shows the production at its best.

Anthony Masters

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 725.4 up 0.7
 FT All Share: 78.99 down 0.30
 Bargains: 19.02
 Datastream USM Leaders
 Index: 98.99 up 0.66
 New York Dow Jones
 Average: (midday) 1169.27
 up 1.00
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 Index: 8,778.48 up 4.26
 Hong Kong Hang Seng
 Index: 1029.74 up 9.21
 Amsterdam: 147.9 up 0.8
 Sydney: AO Index: 66.4 up 3.6
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank
 Index: 932.20 up 8.80
 Brussels: General Index: 127.27 down 0.75
 Paris: CAC Index: 130.0 up 0.02
 Zurich: SKA General: 293.8 up 0.01

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.4820 down 1.10
 Index 84.8 up 0.2
 DM 4.04 down 0.0025
 FF 12.14 up 0.0850
 Yfr 364.50 unchanged
 Dollar Index 130.2 up 1.0
 DM 2.245
NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.4795
INTERNATIONAL
 ECUR: 585611
 SDRC: 703491

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 9%
 Finance houses base rate 10%
 Discount market loans week fixed 9
 3 month interbank 10-9%
Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10%
 3 month DM 5%
 3 month Fr 15%
US rates:
 Bank prime rate 11.00
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 9%
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 6 July to 2 August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 close \$408 pm \$408.25
 close \$409 (\$275.75) down \$3.25
 New York latest: \$408.25
 Kruggerand (per coin): \$421-\$425.50 (\$284-\$285)
 Sovereigns (new): \$96-\$97 (\$264-\$265.50)
 Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Robert Fleming Holdings, 8 Crosby Square, EC3 (noon)
 Mooragata, Mercantile Holdings, Charterhouse Accountants' Hall, Mooragata Place, EC2 (noon)
 Symonds Engineering, Room 100, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC2 (11.30)

TODAY

Interim:
 BOC (quarterly), T. F. and J. H. Braine, Davies and Metcalfe, East Lancashire Paper, Lay's Foundries, Plessey (quarterly), Royal Dutch Petroleum, "Shell" Transport and Trading, TI Group, Ultramar, Williams Holdings.
 Final: Star Computer.

NOTEBOOK

Commercial Union, long troubled by its American business, pushed profits, interim profits up to £30.4m, and could manage more than twice as much for the whole year. Underwriting losses in America rose steeply, but CU says that its claims provisions are now adjusted to market conditions.

● Cambria County Council has borrowed £1.7m from the European Investment Bank to go towards construction of a coal-handling and storage site on the north quay at Workington.

● The Crown Agents said last night that they are seeking compensation of £4m from Brunel following the Sultan's decision to end the Agent's role as manager of Brunel's £32m investment portfolio. A joint statement from the Agents and the Brunel Government confirmed that most of the funds have now been transferred to a new Brunel Investment Agency.

● Western Bank have given Poland until tomorrow to respond to recent proposals to reschedule its 1983 commercial debt. A Frankfurt banking source said yesterday: "This is just to speed things up a little, there is nothing ominous about the deadline."

Takeover battle looms after 'inadequate' bid
Norcros makes £65m unwanted offer for UBM Group

By Jonathan Clark
 Norcros yesterday launched an unwanted takeover bid for UBM, Britain's biggest quoted builders merchant, and a big battle for control is likely.

Norcros interests range from Dow-Mac concrete railway sleepers to Cristal bathroom tiles.

The Norcros bid values UBM at just under £65m and is equivalent to 109p per share. But the City believes the bid, made just as UBM has started to recover from heavy losses, is only a sighting shot.

UBM's share price jumped from 99p to 122p yesterday in expectation of a higher offer and a possible counter bid.

Movements in the share price last week make a Stock Exchange inquiry into share dealing likely.

Mr Ken Roberts, the Norcros chairman and chief executive, said:

"Our strength is our management and financial control. We can improve UBM's performance beyond what we anticipate they can manage."

He added that the offer price took into account the expected dramatic improvement in UBM's profits this year.

But UBM said that the bid was "totally inadequate" and it would fight for its independence.

UBM is run by Mr Allen Sheppard as chairman and Mr Roger Pinnington as deputy chairman and chief executive.

More than 10 per cent of UBM's shares are held by Equity Capital for Industry and a further 9.5 per cent are in the hands of Colguy Holdings, the investment arm of Newarthill, the holding company for Sir Robert McAlpine and Greycoat Estates.

Colguy has been tipped as a possible counter bidder, as has Hanson Trust.

Hanson is still sorting out UDS for which it successfully bid this year. It expects to sell the UDS Richard Shops and John Collier chains, which would give it the financial muscle to bid for UBM. This would fit well with its Bunterley building materials business.

Ironically, Equity Capital for Industry tried to half its stake in UBM three weeks before the general election at a little below the then market price of 99p but failed to interest the institutions at a jittery time.

Mr Roberts says that UBM's two big shareholders have been contacted and the response was "encouraging". He also expects to meet the UBM board to talk about the bid.

The terms of the offer are five Norcros shares and £5.17 in cash for every 11 in UBM, with an underwriting cash alternative worth 105p per share.

Full take-up of the share offer would increase the Norcros share capital by more than one-fifth, but Mr Roberts says the acquisition would cause no dilution of earnings per share.

UBM made £2.7m last year on sales of more than £300m after losses of £2.2m the year before.

Figures for the first half of this year are expected to show a strong recovery.

Norcros, which no longer has its troublesome kitchen fittings business, says it is doing even better this year than last, but is making no profits forecast.

Norcros' own construction interests have no distribution side, while UBM makes two-thirds of its sales from distribution through its merchants.

Mr Roberts says there is also a place for the existing UBM board within Norcros and the company would retain a separate identity.

CU losses soar in US

By Andrew Cornelius

Commercial Union
 Half-year to 30.6.83
 Pretax profit £20.4m (£14.2m)
 Premium income £1.98m (£1.08m)
 Underwriting loss £124.3m (£117m)
 Net income 4.85p (same)
 Share price 160p down 5p

Commercial Union Assurance, one of Britain's largest composite insurance companies, is still paying dearly for its expansion into the American market. Underwriting losses there increased from £78.6m to £98.1m in the six months to June 30, despite efforts to control costs and harden insurance premiums.

Mr Cecil Harris, chief executive, yesterday blamed the problems in the United States on the continuing tough market conditions. Strong action was taken to bolster the American claims reserves. Since new management was installed to run the American operation every outstanding claim has been re-assessed on a more conservative basis, he said.



Harris: problems continue in US

Despite the problems, Mr Harris said that he expects to see steady progress during the rest of the year.

Problems in the United States mean that total group underwriting losses rose from £117m to £124.3m, despite an improvement in the underwriting performance in every area outside the United States.

Premium income grew by 12 per cent in sterling terms to £1.98m, while investment income rose by 14 per cent to £12.8m.

Life profits were also up by 30 per cent on the same period last year to £22.2m.

Group pretax profits increased from £14.2m to £20.4m.

In the United States, where 1,700 jobs have been axed in the past year, efforts to harden rates have led to a 6 per cent fall in new business, Mr Harris indicated that despite efforts taken to improve the trading outlook in the United States, it was still the group's biggest problem area.

The interim dividend is maintained at 4.85p in line with the board's policy of continuing to hold the present level of dividend, even though this is not fully covered by profit attributable to shareholders.

Although conditions are still difficult in Britain there are no plans to increase motor premiums until next year.

Investors' Notebook, page 14

Brokers on course for fees record

By Our Financial Staff

Stockbroking firms look set for another record year in fees and commissions earned from companies raising fresh cash on the London Stock Exchange.

Figures just released show July was a record month for new share issues. Companies raised £474.4m on the stock market against £179.8m in the same month last year.

For arranging the underwriting for these cash issues, stockbrokers normally receive a 0.25 per cent fee on the amount for which underwriting has been arranged by their firm.

So far this year their commission from this has doubled to about £7.52m. For the whole of last year the brokers' share of the fee for underwriting arrangements came to £8.74m.

The largest was the £548m Britoil flotation. It provided the City with one of its best fee-earning opportunities since the £624m rights issue from BP.

The cost of the operation to the Department of Energy was £12.5m.

Normally underwriting costs amount to about 2 per cent of an issue but are often scaled down for big issues. This was the case in the Britoil flotation, where the underwriting commissions totalled 1.55 per cent.

Of this only 0.3 per cent or £1.65m went to the six underwriting banks involved, S G Warburg, Kleinwort Benson, Hambro, Barings Brothers, Morgan Grenfell and Schroder.

Wag. They in turn had to pay the five stockbrokers who arranged the sub-underwriting by City institutions out of this sum.

The brokers involved were Rowe & Pitman, Cazenove, Greenwell, Hoare Govett and Wood Mackenzie. The fees the brokers received for their role as agents to the underwriters are not disclosed, but some are believed to have received about £100,000.

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General Accident profits up £29m

By Our Financial Staff

General Accident, Britain's largest private motor insurance company, reported higher interim profits and then promptly gave notice of an average increase of 10 per cent in British insurance rates from this month.

Pretax profits for the six months ending June 30 rose from £6.5m at the same stage last year to £35.6m this time. Underwriting losses were down from £87.1m to £63.9m with improvements in each major area including Britain and the US.

At the same time investment income continued to improve, rising from £92.2m to £100.1m. The board is recommending an increased interim dividend of 8p, against 7.5p.

The increase in British motor rates is effective for policies renewed after August 1. "We

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation
 Half-year to 30.6.83
 Pretax profit £35.6m (£6.5m)
 Premium income £883.5m (£811.3m)
 Underwriting loss £63.9m (£87.1m)
 Net income 8.5p (7.5p)
 Share price 435p up 4p
 Dividend payable 1.15p

are taking a lead in the motor market," Mr Buchanan Marshall, chief general manager said.

During the period net premium income increased from £61.1m to £68.3m, but all major lines of the business transacted in the United States were unprofitable.

The biggest single improvement came in Canada where there was a marginal profit compared with a £5.3m loss last year. Australia, South Africa and New Zealand also showed welcome improvements.

Horsman in £1.2m oil share spree

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Mr Malcolm Horsman, who abruptly left Telford Kemsley and Millbourn in January last year with a reported £300,000 golden handshake, is moving into the oil business.

He has bought, through his latest company Ivorbeam, a 30.8 per cent share in Pennine Resources. The price paid for the four million shares involved was £1.22m or 30.5p a share.

Pennine Resources last night closed up 1 1/2p at 37p.

Pennine is owned by Candeco and was floated off as its US exploration company in 1980. It has substantial gas and oil resources in Oklahoma and Wyoming and holding in gas and oil reserves in other states.

Mr Horsman, who at one time was Deputy Chairman of Bowater, will, as the Takeover Panel insists offer the same price for the whole of Pennine, valuing the company at more than £4m.

It is intended that Pennine's listing on Luxembourg Stock Exchange will continue and that dealing in London should continue. For that reason, Ivorbeam, which is wholly owned by Mr Horsman, will place any acceptances through institutional investors through Anthony Gibbs, its banker.

Building societies should raise more funds from the wholesale money markets and not rely so heavily on personal savings, according to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

A better flow of funds would shorten mortgage queues and give an impetus to the house-building industry, the RICS says.

"They should be prepared to go to the money market more than they do at the moment. We would like to see them speed things up," Mr Ray Baker of the RICS, said.

The societies, however, take the view that wholesale money gives them flexibility but that they will continue to raise most of the cash from traditional sources.

It was clear last night that the bank is not so far putting pressure on the trust or on FMC. Barclays is the one of the biggest banks in agricultural lending.

But FMC is due to have talks with the Bank next Thursday and also expects to have talks with the trust now the plan, largely organized by the NFU, has failed.

As the NFU expressed disappointment over the failure of the refinancing plan the FMC said it was business as usual. FMC's new chairman, Mr Peter Humphries - a senior partner in Ernst and Whinney, the accountants said yesterday: "Our borrowings are well below the limits agreed with our bankers and Barclays, our principal bankers, have assured us that our facilities will not be affected."

FMC was in a sound position, with capital and reserves of more than £13m, with bacon and by-products division trading profitably and the meat sector returning to profit after the seasonal drop in sales.

Dow wipes out early loss

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks edged higher in early trading yesterday after a lower start.

The Dow Jones Industrial average showed a 1.5 gain in contrast to an initial drop of about 6.

Advances moved ahead of declines by a 675 to 610 margin. Trading was moderate.

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WALL STREET

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General

APPOINTMENTS

NatWest's petroleum head named

National Westminster Bank has named as petroleum engineer and assistant vice-president of the group petroleum engineering unit, based in Houston, Texas.

Geoffrey Mr John Stillitz has been made joint managing director with Mr S. Diamond. Mr A. L. Stillitz has resigned as joint managing director, but remains chairman.

Northern Trust: Mr James McMenamin of the London branch has been promoted to vice-president, with responsibility for Continental Europe.

Matheson & Co: Mr J. M. Spence has joined the board following his secondment from Jardine, Matheson in Hong-kong.

Johns Govett: Mr Charles Fowler has been appointed a director. He is a fund manager responsible for Far Eastern investments. Mr Tim Blair has been made secretary of the company and of Lake View Investment Trust, a trust with the John Govett Management Group.

Gartmore Investment Management: Mr Campbell Allan has become chairman and Mr Adrian Collins managing director. Mr Eric Crawford and Mr Sam Stevenson have resigned as directors.

Rediffusion Computers: Mr Keith Banks has been named systems engineering director, responsible for customer and systems engineering operations.

Quorum Computers: Mr John Jackson has become chairman of this newly-formed company.

International Accounting Standards Committee: Mr Geoffrey Mitchell has been appointed secretary-general from January 1.

National Employers Life: Lord Plummer has been made chairman.

Crouch Group: Mr David Shaw has joined the board.

Hongkong Trade Development Council: Mr David de Vorman has been appointed senior United Kingdom representative.

Bridport Gaudry: Mr A. F. W. Budden, managing director of Bridport Aviation Products, has been named a director.

Saab-Fairchild Finance Corporation: Mr Neil Carlisle has become president.

Racal-Decca Marine Navigation: Mr David Baker has been promoted to managing director and has joined the board of Racal Marine.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Procter's big soap suds gamble

Whenever two or three marketing men are gathered together these days, the conversation will turn to the revolution taking place in Newcastle upon Tyne, British headquarters of the American soaps and toiletries company Procter & Gamble, home of such brands as Ariel, Bold and Daz washing powders, Fairy washing-up liquid, Crest toothpaste and Pampers disposable nappies.

Newcastle was once the undisputed centre of marketing expertise in this country. The parent company in Cincinnati invented the brand management marketing structure and was regarded widely as the world's university of marketing. But Procter lost its way in Britain in the 1970s, particularly in the soap and detergent markets where Lever Brothers, forged ahead spectacularly.

The caution for which the company was renowned, testing products and advertising campaigns almost to destruction over several years before launching them nationally, caught up with it in the 1970s when it launched new products. These it did launch, mostly turned out to be the wrong ones.

Now that longstanding policy has been turned on its head, Cincinnati is encouraging its managers to take more risks and to exploit market opportunities more quickly. Nowhere is this change of attitude more apparent than in Britain, where a stream of new products, in a variety of fields, has appeared from Newcastle in the last 18 months.

Ariel Automatic washing powder, Pampers, Bounce fabric conditioner, Bold 3, and reformulations of products such as Crest, Zest soap and Lencor fabric conditioner have all been launched with a minimum of market testing and a maximum of advertising.

The scale of this activity became apparent in the publication of the annual list, by media expenditure analysis. Limited, of the top advertisers reported here last month which showed that Procter, which increased its advertising expenditure last year by almost 35 per cent, from £24.9m to £45.8m.

A total of £7.3m was spent on Ariel Automatic alone, and the budget for Pampers was not far behind. While these figures, based on retail prices, can be misleading in straight money terms since they do not take account of discounts, they are an accurate reflection of year-

on-year increases and there is no doubt that Procter is on the biggest spending spree in the history of advertising.

What effect this will have had on the group's profit figures will not be known for several months. But the chances are it will push the group into the red, since in such competitive markets the advertising cost cannot be passed on immediately to the customer in the form of higher prices without running the sales drive.

Procter's profits have been declining steadily since 1978 when, in the year to June, the company made £10.6m.

Last year, the figure was down to £800,000 and in its annual report - one of the few places in which the notoriously secretive company makes any comment at all - Procter referred to "the heavy investment we continued to make in new brands and brand development, which severely reduced this year's profit".

Lever Brothers, in contrast, had no need of such huge increases in its advertising expenditure last year. It stayed pegged at just over £12m.

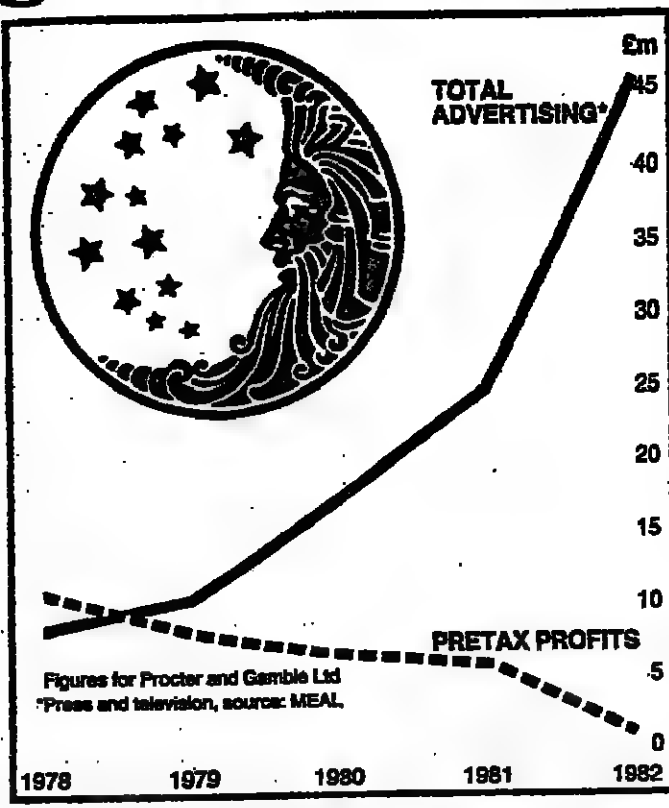
Admittedly it does not operate in all the markets that Procter does - toiletries, for example, are the province of its fellow Unilever company Elna Gibbs - but the main reason is that it was steadily developing successful products throughout the 1970s and absorbing the launch costs over that period.

So it now has a number of established brands that do not need such high levels of advertising. It is estimated that Lever Brothers made £14m profit last year.

Procter managers are being encouraged to take more risks

In the US, for example, there have been few launches in the past 10 years and those were disasters, most notably that of the Rely tampon which became linked with the toxic shock syndrome and resulted in a flood of court cases. It was written off at a cost of \$75m (£50.8m).

In the last three years, the company has turned to acquisition as the solution to its new products problem, buying up the Crush soft drink business (outside Canada), a Coca-Cola



Figures for Procter and Gamble Ltd. *Press and television, source: MEAL.

and a pharmaceuticals business.

The contrast in Britain between the performance of Procter and its soap powder rival Lever Brothers since 1970 has been particularly striking. In that year, Procter was rated the top manufacturer by grocery buyers who were asked to rate 45 companies in terms of their new product performance.

The next year it was still top in the survey, conducted by KAE, the business development consultancy. By 1980 it had slipped to seventh place and was still there last year. Lever Brothers was now number one.

The most often discussed example of Lever Brothers' outmarketing Procter in the 1970s is the case of Persil Automatic, the low suds powder designed for front-loading automatic washing machines, which Lever Brothers had correctly foreseen would take an increasing share of the market.

Persil Automatic was launched in 1968 at about the same time that Procter came up with its last real winner, the first enzyme washing powder, Ariel. This was a technological breakthrough and Ariel soon took brand leadership from Persil, but unfortunately for Procter it neglected the growing low suds sector: it did not launch its first low suds powder until 1973 and

then it chose the wrong marketing route.

"Many people, both inside and outside the company, believe that if Ariel Automatic had been launched, and not Bold, Procter would be in a much stronger position in the market", says a recent analysis of the company's performance in the KAE business development newsletter.

"Lever correctly chose to launch a sister brand to Persil (and not to call it Skip, the alternative name) while Procter

Lever, in contrast, does not need huge increases in expenditure

came into the market with Bold, a new brand. This is a good example of Procter adhering to a proven principle - namely that there is a very high risk that companion brands cannibalize their parents - but yet losing out to a more aggressive, entrepreneurial competitor." Figures from Lever Brothers' annual review of the British soaps and detergents market, based on AGB/ICA sales data, show how costly that decision was. The low suds sector of the washing powder business has grown

rapidly - 42 per cent of homes now have a front-loading automatic washing machine - and last year accounted for £179m of the £298m spent on washing powder.

Lever Brothers has dominated that sector from the beginning and last year had 53 per cent of the market.

Nevertheless, the figures also show that Procter's huge investment in new products and advertising is beginning to carve into Lever Brothers' share of the business. Procter finally launched Ariel Automatic in 1981, without a test market (one of the first signs that things were changing in Cincinnati and Newcastle) and by the end of last year it had a 17 per cent share of the low suds sector.

There is a great danger, however, recognized by all the leading marketing companies, in striving relentlessly for market share without remembering the need to make a profit. It is possible to buy a large share of almost any market by spending huge sums on advertising and cutting the price of the product but if there is no likelihood of an eventual return on that investment the exercise is akin to a suicide attempt. It is far better, in those circumstances, to maintain a lower, but profitable, share of the market.

The problem in the soap powder business, as in that of other products that are bought every week out by virtually every household in the land, is that a high volume of sales and production is required to keep costs and prices down.

Procter and Lever Brothers dominate the soap powder business - together they have 89 per cent - and if one starts to lose too much volume to the other it funds itself on a downward spiral, with costs proportionately rising as sales fall. Hence the battle for volume is seen as an essential part of keeping prices down.

The question that is now being asked is how long Procter can maintain this huge level of investment in new products before it needs to see a return on its expenditure.

There is no shortage of markets in Britain and the rest of Europe for Procter to turn its attention to - paper, coffee, soft drinks, oils and fats, and pharmaceuticals are all areas in which it is developing in the US but whether it has the money to plough into them remains to be seen.

Economic notebook

Why productivity has increased

An unusual feature of the recession has been a marked growth in productivity. Usually during a recession, output falls by more than employment and so productivity declines. This time the opposite has happened; employment has been more affected by the recession than output so that productivity has risen.

Indeed, the Government has made much political mileage out of this. Is it the mark of a firm Government that is doing the trick? Or have British workers and managers at last decided to change their mediocre ways and behave more like the Germans and the Japanese?

There is much excitement among the doctors who specialise in the British Disease that the patient may be on the mend after a century of economic dyspepsia.

There is, however, a simpler and more probable theory that explains the productivity growth. Indeed Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tait have been hinting at it all along. But this theory is more a cause of self-flagellation than self-congratulation.

Government ministers have repeatedly argued - and rightly so - that workers have to be a large extent priced themselves out of jobs. By insisting on real wages that are too high, profitability is adversely affected so that employers reduce their demand for labour.

The fundamental reason why labour demand falls is contained in the so-called "law of diminishing returns". According to this, the marginal product of labour (i.e. the productivity of the last worker employed) falls as the number of workers is increased - the return to labour diminishes.

In theory, profit-maximising firms tend to equate the marginal product of labour with its marginal cost. Since the marginal cost of labour is the real wage (plus employer's National Insurance contributions), employers will carry on recruiting people until their marginal product has fallen into line with their marginal cost.

If, however, workers have raised the marginal cost of labour by insisting on real wages that are too high, this process is put into reverse. Employers will reduce their

workforce because the "law of diminishing returns" suggests that by doing so the marginal product of labour will be raised into line with its higher marginal cost. As this process unfolds we are likely to observe two things.

First, as the number of workers is reduced, unemployment rises. Secondly, as the output of the marginal worker rises, the average product of the smaller workforce rises and productivity rises. In this way we observe the coincidence of recession and productivity growth. Both developments reflect the same common cause - excessive real wages.

This argument can be put another way. Higher real wages cause lower labour demand and higher unemployment. But why does the lower level of employment raise productivity?

Since productivity is defined as output per worker, an increase in productivity implies in this case that output has fallen by less than employment. Why should this happen? Output is produced with labour, capital equipment, energy and so on. Labour is just one, but extremely important, input in the production process.

If all inputs were to fall by, say, 1 per cent, output would fall by 1 per cent. However, if only labour falls by 1 per cent, output falls by less than 1 per cent because the other inputs are unchanged. But if this happens the fall in employment results in an increase in productivity.

So productivity growth simply reflects employers' attempts to economize on labour because workers are overcharging. There have been no miracles. Had there been no unemployment would not have arisen in the first place. If and when workers price themselves back into jobs, this whole process will be reversed and the economic recovery will be associated with unusually low productivity growth just as this supply-induced recession has been associated with high productivity growth.

Michael Beenstock

The author is professor of finance and investment at the City University Business School.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	1982/83	1981/82	1980/81
1. 100% Government Bonds	100.0	100.0	100.0
2. 100% Corporate Bonds	100.0	100.0	100.0
3. 100% International Bonds	100.0	100.0	100.0
4. 100% Equity	100.0	100.0	100.0
5. 100% Real Estate	100.0	100.0	100.0
6. 100% Commodity	100.0	100.0	100.0
7. 100% Hedge	100.0	100.0	100.0
8. 100% Cash	100.0	100.0	100.0
9. 100% Insurance	100.0	100.0	100.0
10. 100% Other	100.0	100.0	100.0

Commercial users face oil price rise

By Our Energy Correspondent

Industrial users are likely to be faced with an overall oil and petrol price increase by the end of this month as the other oil companies follow Esso, which has announced rises of between 4.6 per cent and 6.8 per cent.

The Esso price rise affects only industrial customers, who will pay 186.15p a gallon for four star petrol. Industrial users normally receive a 3p a gallon discount to retail prices.

Other oil companies are also preparing industrial price rises, but Esso with 20 per cent of the market has been most affected. The rise is due to the strength of the dollar compared to the pound. Retail prices, which last rose last month are unaffected.

Boost for talks on wiping out over-capacity

Diesel sector hopes rekindled

By Andrew Cornelius

Talks between diesel engine manufacturers, aimed at wiping out excess capacity in the hard-pressed industry, have gained new impetus two years after a £100m survival plan was mooted.

Speculation about the future shape of the industry has increased since GEC confirmed that it is discussing a possible takeover of the Rolls-Royce diesel business from its owners, Vickers.

Both sides denied that a deal is about to be struck. However, the leading manufacturers in the industry indicated that talks on the possible restructuring are still continuing and have done so since the £100m plan was submitted to the Government.

Companies involved in the

talks include GEC, which owns important industrial and marine diesel businesses; Vickers, which acquired Rolls-Royce diesels with the takeover of the car company; Perkins Engines, in Peterborough, and Hawker Siddeley, which owns the Gardner and Lister diesel companies.

Only Cummins Engines, the American-owned manufacturer, which has three engine plants in Britain, denies taking any interest in the future of the Rolls' business. Cummins says: "In view of the chronic over-capacity in the diesel engine industry, especially in the United Kingdom, it is highly unlikely that we would take an interest in Rolls as it stands."

Under the terms of the

survival plan the British industry was to be rationalized round BL, Perkins and Rolls-Royce, with each company concentrating on a specialist area.

But the plan ran into trouble after criticism from Cummins and Hawker Siddeley which were to be left out in the cold.

Since, Cummins has embarked on a £500m worldwide reinvestment programme to improve its engine businesses, including a £30m modernization of its Shotts plant in Lanarkshire.

Cummins has also struck a deal with Leyland Vehicles, the BL truck-making company at Basingstoke, to develop a range of truck engines which will come to the market in 1986.

There has also been severe

action to cut jobs in the industry which has been shaken by the collapse in demand for engines from the truck, bus, construction, agricultural, marine and engineering industries.

Truck production alone has halved since 1979 when problems began to emerge for engine manufacturers.

At Cummins the workforce has been cut by 2,000 to 4,000 employees over the past three years.

Perkins, Gardner and Rolls-Royce have also announced heavy redundancies and short-term working to combat the problems.

In some sectors of the industry the problems are so acute that overcapacity is still touching 50 per cent.

Korea ready five years ahead of time

How Seoul jumped the gun in race to 1988 Olympics

More than five years before they are to host the Olympic Games the South Koreans have almost finished building the main stadium. With its curved outer walls, a design taken from traditional Korean pottery, it looks from the outside like a gigantic oil tanker. Inside, 100,000 people will be able to watch the opening and closing ceremonies and the track and field events of the 1988 Games.

The stadium is the centrepiece of a sports complex on the Han River in south-east Seoul. A large gymnasium seating 20,000, where the volleyball matches will be played, an indoor swimming pool (12,000), and a smaller gymnasium (12,000), where the boxing will take place, are already in use. By the time the Los Angeles Olympics open in July next year the complex will be complete, at a cost of about \$90m.

The advanced state of preparation is due to the fact that building began before South Korea was chosen for the next Olympics but one in September 1981. In 1977 the municipality of Seoul began work on a sports complex for the city and it was subsequently decided that it would be the venue of many of the Olympic events.

Two miles to the north-east the ground has just been broken for a national sports complex which will contain a velodrome, three indoor gymnasia for fencing, table tennis and judo, and offices for the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC) and the athletes and press villages, the first with accommodation in flats for 15,000, the second for 7,500.

Other construction projects outside these two complexes include a rowing course on the Han River, an equestrian arena in southern Seoul and a yachting marina.

SLOOC intends that all these facilities should be completed by early 1986, well in time for the Asian Games which are due to begin in Seoul on October 3 that year, and more than two and a half years before the opening of the Olympics in the autumn of 1988.

The direct cost of staging the Olympics is put at about \$650m. The Seoul complex is being financed by the municipality and funds for the other projects will come from both private and

public sources. SLOOC want to attract private investment where possible and have already handed over construction of the Pusan marina to Daewoo, one of South Korea's large companies.

The committee hope to recover these costs through the sale of tickets, television rights, commemorative gold coins and licences to use the Olympic emblem (a Korean tiger) and through a national lottery, which has been through a preliminary stage since April. In addition, the first in the two Olympic villages will be put on the market after the games.

Far more important to the South Koreans than balancing the books, however, is the prestige of being chosen to host the Games. The municipality of Seoul set the ball rolling in 1979 but, in the political unrest which followed the assassination of President Park Chung-hee in October that year, the issue faded into the background. Once the new strongman, Chun Doo-hwan, had consolidated his power, a last minute application was made and a vigorous lobbying campaign set in motion. On September 30, 1981 in Baden-Baden Seoul beat Nagoya by 52 votes to 27.

The South Koreans hoped that the Seoul Games will focus attention on the achievements of their country in the same way that the Tokyo Games of 1964 marked the emergence of Japan as a world economic power. In particular, they would like China and the Soviet Union, the principal backers of their bitter rival, North Korea, to take part and thus pave the way for eventual recognition of South Korea by the communist world.

North Korea's participation is highly improbable and there are fears to the south of the 38th parallel that Pyongyang may be tempted to disrupt the Games by some form of military incursion. Seoul is only 25 miles from the demilitarized zone which cuts the Korean peninsula in two.

On the sporting front, the South Koreans are choosing 4,000 boys and girls for special training in preparation for the Olympics. In the Asian Games in Delhi last year the country came third in the medals table, after China and Japan.

Simon Scott Plummer

General Accident

INTERIM RESULTS

The results for the six months ended 30th June 1983, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1982, which are restated at 31st December 1982 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1982.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	6 Months to 30.6.83 Estimated £ millions	6 Months to 30.6.82 Estimated £ millions	Year 1982 Actual £ millions
Net written premiums General Business	683.9	611.9	1,233.0
Investment Income Underwriting Result-General Business	100.1	92.2	195.5
Long Term Insurance Profits	(65.9)	(87.1)	(153.8)
	2.2	2.2	4.5
Loan Interest	26.4	7.3	48.2
	0.8	0.8	1.7
Profit before Tax and Minority Interest	35.6	6.5	44.5
Taxation	2.5	(6.5)	(9.1)
Minority Interest and Preference Dividend	0.9	0.5	1.3
Net Profit attributable to Shareholders	32.2	12.5	52.3
Earnings per Ordinary Share	19.1p	7.6p	31.3p
Principal exchange rates used in converting overseas results-			
U.S.A.	\$1.53	\$1.62	\$1.62
Canada	\$1.88	\$1.99	\$1.99

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 11.8% and 8.7% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 9.6% and 7.0% respectively.

In the second quarter there were underwriting losses of £10.4m (1982 £13.0m loss) in the United Kingdom and £11.8m (1982 £11.7m loss) in the United States. In the aggregate, other territories produced underwriting losses reduced by one-third as compared with last year and the overall second quarter loss was £26.7m (1982 £31.0m loss). The pre-tax profit for the quarter amounted to £27.5m (1982 £17.8m profit).

For the six months net premiums written in the United Kingdom amounted to £255.9m (1982 £238.1m), with an underwriting loss of £29.7m (1982 £40.7m loss). Despite the customary seasonal improvement, second quarter losses increased as compared with last year to £3.3m in the Motor account and £2.4m in the Homeowners' account, making losses for the half year of £11.4m (1982 £6.4m loss) and £6.1m (1982 £11.3m loss) respectively. The industrial Fire and Traders' accounts, with a better claims experience, had a loss of £1.6m in the quarter and £7.0m for the period but there was a further sharp deterioration in the Liabilities account.

For the six months, net premiums written in the United States totalled \$388m (1982 \$357m), with an operating ratio of 108.82 as compared with 110.62 for the same period in 1982. The first quarter improvement on 1982 has been maintained, particularly in the personal property line, but all major lines remain unprofitable. On the United Kingdom basis, the underwriting loss was £24.9m (1982 £24.4m loss).

Elsewhere for the six months, there were aggregate underwriting losses of £11.3m (1982 £22.0m loss). The substantial part of this improvement is in Canada where there remains a marginal profit as compared with a loss of £5.3m a year ago. Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and some smaller territories are showing welcome improvements on 1982 experience but there was a disappointing loss of £6.3m in the E.E.C. This was incurred mainly in Ireland, Belgium and Netherlands and was despite a comparatively good result from France.

Life Department

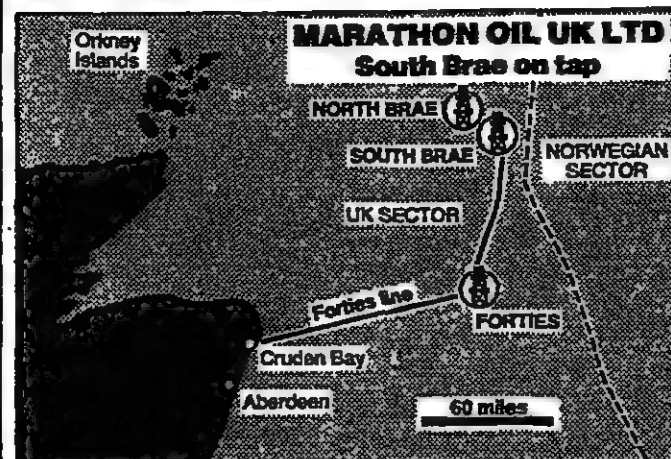
	6 Months to 30.6.83 £ million	6 Months to 30.6.82 £ million	Year 1982 £ million
New Business			
Sums Assured	2,045.2	1,746.7	3,929.3
Annuities per annum	35.6	30.1	61.5
New Life and Annuity Premiums			
Annual	16.8	10.3	22.4
Single	13.1	16.1	24.2

Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1983 of 8.0p per share (1982 7.5p) payable on or after 1st January 1984 to ordinary shareholders on the register of members on 1st December 1983.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc.
World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

Go-ahead soon for latest Brae licence



By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government is expected to give the go ahead next month for the development of the second major stage in the North Sea Brae field which could lead to £1.75bn worth of new business for the British offshore industry.

Marathon oil, whose platform in the Brae field produces more than 30,000 barrels of oil a day, will be seeking tenders for the production platform which will be needed in the northern area of the field.

Mr Bill Kinney, Marathon's president, has indicated that the main contract will be placed in Britain although tenders will be sought from European competitors.

He said: "Current forecasts lead us to expect completion of the initial jacket in the summer of 1987. Commissioning will continue throughout 1988 and we anticipate the first oil ashore at the end of the year."

"Similar to south Brae we expect some 5,000-6,000 contract staff to be working on the project at peak of construction and we anticipate matching the

74 per cent value of total orders which went to the UK for the south Brae development."

Marathon and the Department of Energy have been discussing development of the second stage of the Brae field for some months and the development licence is likely to be issued by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, at the end of next month. At peak production the Brae B field will be able to produce up to 75,000 barrels of oil daily.

The Brae A field is on target for produce 100,000 barrels daily by pipeline into the BP Forties tanker. The first oil from the field is due to be shipped to Marathon's US refinery this month.

At 34,000 tons the Brae platform is one of the largest with 900 men working abroad. Marathon and its consortium partners, including Bristoll which has 20 per cent of the field, are particularly pleased that it has been brought on stream within its target period and at a cost £1m within its £12m budget.

Free advice to exporters on aid agency contracts

By John Lawless

British exports are to be offered a free advice service to help them secure contracts from international aid agencies, worth several billion dollars each year.

Demand for information is now so great that the London Chamber of Commerce will next month announce a panel of experts, to be chaired by Barclays Bank International's finance director, Mr Malcolm Stephens.

He said yesterday: "Aid agencies are often the only source of funds in many countries. Competition for contracts has become incredibly intense."

The panel will complement the work already being done by the Department of Trade and Industry's World Aid Section, whose workload is growing by 10 new visitors a week. Last year it advised 2,100 companies.

Companies needing advice on aid business will be able to call the London chamber offices. Queries will be channelled to business advisers from companies such as Balfour Beatty and International Aeradio, the British Consultants

Bureau or the World Aid Section itself.

British exporters have a poor reputation for picking up aid-related work, dating to 1976, when Britain became eligible for business from the European Development Fund (EDF).

But Britain ran at a profit on its contributions to all aid agencies worldwide last year. In one of the most important of all funds, however, the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Britain got only enough contracts last year to rank number five, having been third the year before.

The IBRD is run along commercial lines, its sister organization, the International Development Association (IDA), provides soft loans from a three-year fund worth \$12bn (£8bn). Britain's contribution to that was about 10 per cent - and it did best of all countries in terms of getting contracts.

Both organizations disbursed \$5.5bn last year. But preliminary talks about new IDA funds have already run into problems. The World Bank says it needs \$16bn. The main contributor, the US, is suggesting \$9bn.

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FOOTBALL

Enfield will not play Millwall

A South club yesterday cancelled a friendly match with Millwall because of the risk of crowd trouble.

Only hours after the Millwall chairman, Allan Thorne, had issued a statement defending the club's supporters, Enfield pulled out of a friendly which had been due to take place on August 17.

Carslaw, Maidstone and Dagenham have already cancelled pre-season matches after crowd trouble at Millwall's game at Tonbridge on Saturday.

Mr Thorne claimed yesterday that Millwall fans had not caused the disturbances at Tonbridge, blamed the media for exaggeration and "completely innocent" reporting of the incident and called for trouble-makers to be "publicly flogged".

The cancellation of the Enfield fixture has left Millwall without any full-scale practice game. Their secretary, Graham Hovet, said: "It has totally disrupted our plans. All the other clubs are fixed up and nobody can fit in."

Millwall problems have not, however, scared off their sponsors. A lucrative contract is due to be announced within the next ten days. Mr Hovet said: "It is all sorted out and going ahead."

Alan Hudson, the midfielder, aged 32, will be back at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and playing for his future. Hudson, one of Chelsea's most talented players in the early 1970s, who also played for Stoke and Arsenal, had recently returned from America. He went with Chelsea to a pre-season training camp in Wales and played in a friendly at Newport, but the London club have not yet decided whether to sign him.

Leeds are still waiting for clearance from the Spanish FA for the former Spain international, Peter Barnes, signed from Real Betis, who is needed for a West Riding Cup game against Huddersfield Town at Elland Road on Saturday.

Harold Shpenderson, aged 64, had been training in the 1966 World Cup, has retired after a 50-year association with Middlebrough.

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET

Challenges to leaders are fast diminishing

By Michael Berry

A play-off between Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire for the first minor counties championship title sponsored by the County Cricket Association is becoming increasingly likely. At the risk of being proved wrong, I can see no other possibility. Both counties can still be caught at the head of their respective divisions, but contenders are fast diminishing.

Buckinghamshire, winners of the championship on eight occasions, have five wins from six games after a successful tour of Cornwall and Devon last week. The runs of Hayward and the consistent, all-round force of Mason continue to do most for their cause. Berkshire and Oxfordshire who were the 1982 champions, appear best placed to threaten the western division leaders.

With Roope, Lickley and Dindar, finding their form with the bat, Berkshire would seem to be Buckinghamshire's main worry. Having watched Oxfordshire crush Shropshire recently, I must doubt the strength of any sustained challenge from their direction.

Arnold, their front-line bowler, produced a hostile spell in the first innings, but they are a county who are beginning to show their age. The recent introduction of younger faces in Ford and Wise was perhaps overdue.

In the eastern division, only Durham looked to have the capabilities to overhaul Hertfordshire - the top. Although it will take some doing, Durham can never be counted out too soon. They have many players of experience and a handful of potential match winners.

North's challenge crumbled on rain-affected wickets at Leamington. Their final match brought a defeat by Suffolk, their neighbours. A century from Justin Edrich, the 22-year-old son of Bill Edrich, made

TENNIS

British women win two out of three

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Loch Ness and the making of a myth

● Prominent Liverpool Liberals have approached Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, to ask her to stand in the European Parliament elections next year for the new Merseyside West constituency



The elusive creature allegedly cruising the

Meanwhile 100,000 people visit the exhibition every year. The 4,000 documented sightings (not all taken seriously) continues to grow, yet neither hair nor hide has yet been produced. There lies the rub. But as Mr Hogan points out, there are few things more pleasant on an August afternoon than messing about in a boat seeking a monster.

Queen Dzelawe's removal

traditional way of life and a role in modern Africa.

Mr Arora is going back to Taipei to make out affidavits. The injunction is for one week.

Even so, many observers here viewed the airlifting of the troops as a token French response to American pressure for more direct involvement.

French Government were in very close consultation on ways

However, American officials have also indicated that they would like France to take a bigger lead.

●**MOSCOW** A Libyan delegation is holding talks in Moscow with Soviet Military leaders, officials at the Libyan Embassy, Bureau Embassier said.

Alexis	27	67	Malpica	27	87	Rio del Jaso	27	87
Alonzo	28	67	Camacho	28	87	Roscoe	28	87
Alvarado	29	68	Calderon	29	88	Sabazon	29	88
Alfaro	30	68	Dallas	30	88	Saint Pauls*	30	88
Alfaro	31	69	Dubin	31	89	Schultz	31	89
Alfaro	32	69	Dubin	32	89	Shelton	32	89
Alfaro	33	70	Dubin	33	90	Shelton	33	90
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